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■ AUCTION REVIEW



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Superfast sales speed away!

The Danny James collection hit some record prices at Vectis recently, especially the models in the Matchbox category.

A Superfast 9c Ford Escort 2000 pre-production trial in red with light amber windows and a dark tan base made £2,817; it came with a Type K box. The Superfast 12d Citroen CX Estate didn't hang about, either; again, a pre-production example in metallic emerald green with a black plastic tailgate, clear windows and a dark yellow interior, its base had not been zinc plated. With an L type box, it was bid to £2,327. As for the Superfast 67b Ford Capri Hot Rucker, this was a Brazilian issue and finished in pink with clear windows, an ivory interior and a bare metal base. Billed as Excellent Plus (with just a couple of chips to the boot and some chrome loss to the engine air intake), it came in a type J box. This South

American oddball closed on £1,837.

Dr Who fans at the sale were spoiled: if the life-size scratchbuilt Dalek didn't tempt (it sold for £686), then there was a lot comprising over 180 Dr Who books. Estimated at fetching £20-40, they were bid all the way to £980.

A Dinky 280e (Type 3) Delivery Van (from 1939/40), finished in cream with silver trim and black smooth hubs raised £808 while a Corgi Whizzwheels 313 Ford Cortina GXL "Graham

Above: The Matchbox Superfast Ford Escort made a tidy packet for its vendor.

Hill" export issue hit £637.

In the model figure arena, a Lone*Star - Harvey Series, early 1960s issue comprising a paint sample card with ten ten dismantled cowboys (including a rare bareheaded cowboy with a lasso) was contested to £2,205; while a Britains set of Snow White and the Seven Fellows of Restricted Growth (!) were strung in an unusual box: this lot made £1,347. ■



Left: An unusual paint sample card from Lone*Star was fought over.

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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Cutting edge

Excalibur's last event featured a good number of lots of miniature figurines from the Aeroart, King & Country and Del Prado companies.

A group of beautifully painted Aeroart diecast mounted Crusaders soldiers, comprising G128, 231 and G168 produced by Grudsky/Grenada Studios raised

£200, while other lots containing Greek and Roman figures sold for between £130 and £170.

A Corgi Ecurie Ecosse car transporter gift set with its (correct) complement of three racing cars wasn't mint but was very presentable nonetheless: this sold for £250.

Bond devotees didn't miss out, either. It took a bid of £220 to secure

the Danbury Mint 1/24 scale limited edition 22 carat gold plated James Bond Aston Martin DB5. This was complete with a removable roof panel, display case, stand and certificate, but missing its original box.

Off beat items included fascinating lots relating to paperwork for Palitoy, General Mills and Airfix.



Colourful and immaculately painted, all the diecast Aeroart figure sets found new homes.

These included notes, drawings and photographs for reference purposes. Some 20 lots went under the hammer and the archive material lots that did sell made around £25-70 each.

Hornby, Wrenn, Trix and Lima kept the railway contingent happy: there

were no prominent models but a Wrenn OO gauge W2212 Class A4 steam loco and tender (Sir Nigel Gresley) made £60, with a companion loco, a W2226 OO gauge Duchess Class locomotive in BR maroon "City of London" livery selling for £65. ■

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Flying high

Aviation took a prominent part in the last British Toy Auction sale.

Its recent auction featured a number of Corgi Dragon Wings, namely a F-14A Tomcat U.S Navy VF-111 'Sundowners', a Heinkel He 111H-3, a Boeing Vertol Chinook HC.1 No 18 Squadron RAF and a B-25J Mitchell: the four models raised £260 plus premium.

Elsewhere, from Hobby Master, Corgi and IXO was a selection of five boxed diecast models. These included a Corgi DH Mosquito B IV, a Heinkel He 162A Salamander by IXO; and a HA0125 Hobby Master MIG-21 SMT Hump Back Soviet Air



Pure nostalgia from a pre-Internet age: these dolls sold well at BTA.

Force jet. This aviation lot made £130.

From toymaker Mattel came a lot including Barbie and a Pedigree Sindy. This group of vintage dolls comprised a 1968 New Look Sindy

with platinum hair, a 1976 soft boy Pretty Dreams Barbie, two 1976 dated Barbies and a Midge doll. Also included were some unbranded clothing. Every girl's dream was knocked down for £140. ■

■ HOBBY NEWS

How much?

We are definitely a nation of collectors, as new research from Airtasker reveals 68% of the population spend an average of £5,500 on collectables. Moreover, 32% say they're 'big' collectors with two thirds (72%) considering moving to a bigger property to make room for their keepsakes, and 83% admitted they argue with loved ones about their items taking up too much space!

To celebrate collectors (and help prevent further rifts) Airtasker is launching 'British Collector Awards' calling enthusiasts to enter themselves, or a loved one who deserves the accolade.

Whether you're a

collector of 90s nostalgia, vintage cars, royal memorabilia or Barbie dolls, Airtasker is looking for the biggest and most outrageous treasure troves, with five UK winners in line for top awards. Four runner-up finalists will receive a medal, along with £200 to help build display areas to showcase their collections and one overall winner who will bag a £1,000 to house their hero products along with the 'Britain's Best Collector' trophy.

You can email your entry directly to: ukcollectors@thewilful.com. Applications are open until 26th January 2024, with shortlists being selected in February. The winners will be announced on 21st February 2024. ■

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH



MINI GT NISSAN SILVIA - ROCKET BUNNY

Price: £12.99 Scale: 1/46 Release: out now
Nissan's attractive Silvia looks even more so in Rocket Bunny guise, featuring some lovely detail and a stunning paint job with subtle, yet superb, graphics.

» www.clevelandsdiecast.co.uk

CORGI MODEL CLUB LOTUS ELAN S2

Price: £32.99 Scale: 1/42 Release: out now
In a striking metallic blue, with a boot decal emblazoned with Esso's popular 'I've Got a Tiger in my Tank' advertising slogan.

» www.corgimodelclub.com



■ AUCTION NEWS

Trains & steam at Wessex

Wessex Auction Rooms' two day sale featured over 170 lots of railway-centric collectables, with all the usual suspects present. Buyers could choose from Tri-ang Hornby, Bachmann, Trix and even Lone*Star. Gauges included the ever-popular OO but others were also available. One stand-out lot was the USA Trains G scale EMD F3 Pennsylvania 9679 diesel locomotive and Pennsylvania 9680 Power Car; included was an Aristo Craft G scale Norfolk Southern 555774

caboose, a Turnigy 5X remote control and two lots of bagged USA Trains figure sets. The selection raised £240.

One oddity was the boxed Ever Ready OO gauge Electric Train Set which was dry battery operated. Based on an Underground train, the set made £48.

Over 20 lots were devoted to steam toys: a Stuart Turner Sun racing engine, plus a group of other model steam components, sold for £320 while a Wileco D305 steam fire engine in red, albeit unboxed, was bid to £140. Finally, five Mamod steam engines,

comprising three TE1A tractors and two steam rollers, all exhibiting play wear and rust, were knocked down for £220.

Two boxed Pelham Puppets certainly attracted attention on day one of the auction: Gerry Anderson's Mike Mercury from the Supercar series was accompanied by Dr Beaker. A rare pairing, Anderson devotees' interest pushed them to an extra-terrestrial £300.

A large selection of unmade kits also went under the hammer. In the larger scales, an unbuilt Rivarossi 1/8 Rolls Royce Phantom II Sedan Coupe 193 was a stunning model

Interesting Wileco steam-powered fire engine would have benefited from light cleaning.



and this sold for £240.

Bargains? How about the lot comprising a boxed Hornby Minic Ships 1/2000 Fleet Anchorage set (complete), plus boxed and unboxed plastic model kits (two red stripe Airfix

1/72 B-29 Superfortress models and a 1/72 HMS Iron Duke); and two Revell 1/2000 Miniships, namely the RMS Titanic and a Miniships USS Missouri? Just £38 took the selection away. ■

■ HOBBY NEWS

Model engineering show

The highly successful 44th Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition took place during October at the Warwickshire Event Centre, with thousands of visitors in attendance.

The Society of Model and Experimental Engineers and Model Engineer/Model Engineers Workshop celebrated their 125th joint anniversary at the exhibition. There



were also a number of other special attractions this year including a lecture programme, special exhibit displays

and the reintroduction of live demonstrations.

The exhibition showcased hundreds of fascinating models in

competition and display classes and on the club and society display stands. The winner of the overall best model in the exhibition, and the Chris Deith Memorial Trophy, was Mike Sayers with his 1927 Delage 15.S.8 GP engine.

Model Engineering clubs and societies were well represented with some 30 stands with hundreds of quality exhibits on display. The best Society Display winners were:

• 1st - Coventry Model

Engineering Society
• 2nd - Hereford Society of Model Engineers
• 3rd - Society of Model & Experimental Engineers

Outside attractions included the Fosse Way Steamers, where a wide selection of live steam scale model engines were in action for the enjoyment of visitors.

2024 dates for your diary are Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th October, again at the Warwickshire Event Centre. ■

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reviewed at
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FORD MUSTANG MACH 1**

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Your Collecting Bookcase



Irwin Allen Collectibles

Author: John Buss
ISBN: 9781398115316
Price: £15.99

What is the appeal to Irwin Allen's shows? Well, to a sixties TV audience used to a diet of westerns and hard-boiled detectives, they were new and exciting compared to what had appeared before. As for the appeal, much of this is down to the groups of diverse characters within each series. The sense of family within *Lost in Space* was carried through into *Land of the Giants*, with the passengers of the doomed transatlantic flight. Irwin Allen's shows soon became a dominant force in TV science fiction throughout the decade. It started with *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* in 1964, which was soon followed by his best-known series *Lost in Space*, before moving on to *The Time Tunnel* and his final 1960s series, *Land of the Giants*, which ran between 1968 and 1970.

Each of these series spawned huge swathes of merchandise, much of which is covered in this book. Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats. ■

HOBBY NEWS

New from Matrix



News has reached us from British Heritage Models of two new Matrix models coming soon. The famous British cars, about to hit the paddock, are the 1953 Daimler DE36 'Green Goddess', and the 1980 Aston Martin Bulldog.

The 20-foot-long green

Daimler prototype, built for Daimler chairman, Sir Bernard Docker, was the costliest vehicle at the 1948 Earls Court show. At £7,001 (or nearly £250,000 today) it was probably the most expensive car on sale anywhere in the world too.

The unique Bulldog, styled by William Towns, was a British one-off

concept vehicle produced by Aston Martin, in 1979. Initially, a production run of 15-25 cars was planned, but the project was deemed too costly, and only one was built.

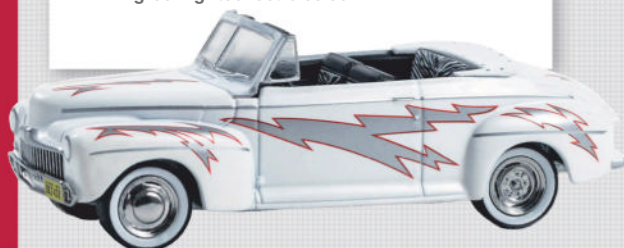
Both models will be available from British Heritage Models (www.britishheritagemodels.co.uk) or your preferred retailer. ■

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH

GREENLIGHT COLLECTIBLES 1948 FORD DE LUXE CONVERTIBLE - "GREASED LIGHTNIN"

Price: £7.99 **Scale:** 1/64 **Release:** out now
 Pure feel good nostalgia packaged in 1/64 scale, this an excellent casting from Greenlight Collectibles that is on target with accuracy in detail.

» www.greenlightcollectibles.com



SOLIDO BEETLE BAJA 1975

Scale: 1/18 **Price:** £49.00 **Release:** out now

The "Baja Bugs" are Volkswagen Beetles that have been modified to participate in off-road races in North America and Mexico. A spectacular replica!

» www.solido.com

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

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JANUARY 2024 ISSUE



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Vectis

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Monday 4th - Dolls & Teddy Bear Sale

Tuesday 5th - Specialist Diecast

Wednesday 6th - Specialist Diecast

Thursday 7th - General Toy Sale

Monday 11th - Retro, Action Man/Lego

Tuesday 12th - General Toy Sale

Wednesday 13th - TV & Film Related Sale

Thursday 14th - Model Train Sale



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What was the year?

Alwyn Brice goes back in time – but can you?

It was a year to remind mankind of the dangers surrounding the advances in technology, for April witnessed the world's worst nuclear disaster, when the fourth reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded, immediately killing 31 people. Many more would suffer from the effects of widespread radiation.

Tragedy wasn't confined to Russia, though, for in the US the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded just 73 seconds after it lifted off from Cape Canaveral. All seven crew members perished in the incident.

Famous names in the news? In April, Clint Eastwood took a break from acting and was elected mayor of Carmel, in California. The same month saw Desmond Tutu appointed as the Anglican Archbishop of Capetown. Usain Bolt was born. And George Alan O'Dowd, also known as Boy George, was reported to be undergoing treatment for heroin addiction. On an allied theme, New York City passed its first lesbian and gay rights legislation. Also in the US, the first federal holiday honouring Martin Luther King Jr. took place.

Social progress was being made, too, when the very first anti-smoking advertisement appeared on television, featuring actor Yul Brynner (who died of lung cancer).

There were some in the UK who were very concerned over the fate of that great British institution Land Rover, which looked likely to be sold to the US. The BBC was in hot water after its AIDS slogan was blasted by church elders as being irresponsible and encouraging promiscuous activity. And the

country's oldest twins, May and Marjorie Chavasse, celebrated their 100th birthday with, appropriately, a joint birthday party.

At the movies, *Top Gun*, directed by Tony Scott and starring Tom Cruise, resplendent in white, made its debut. Who can forget the harmony episode, as Tom woos Kelly McGilliss? There were plenty of action films to see this year: *Platoon*, which pulled no punches about the Vietnam war; *Highlander*; and some more nonsense from Sly Stallone, who starred in *Cobra*. For lighter fare, Paul Hogan was downing the tinnies in *Crocodile Dundee*.

The world of sport saw Martina Navratilova, thanks to her skills with a racquet, become the first tennis player to earn US\$10m. In football, Argentina defeated West Germany 3-2, thereby winning their second World Cup title.

In music, Geffen Records signed up a new band, Guns & Roses, but in terms of established entertainers this year, youngsters were buying *The Communards* (*Don't leave me this way*), Berlin (*Take my breath away*) and the Bangles (*Manic Monday*). And good old Madonna saw her album *True Blue* sit at the top of the charts for five weeks.

At the local toyshop, Care Bears were in great demand, and this year saw a television series released based on their home in Care-a-Lot. For boys, the Omnibot was of interest, since it foreshadowed real-life technology. And Wave 5 (yes, five!) of the He-Man line of muscled crusaders became available.

So... what was the year? **CG**



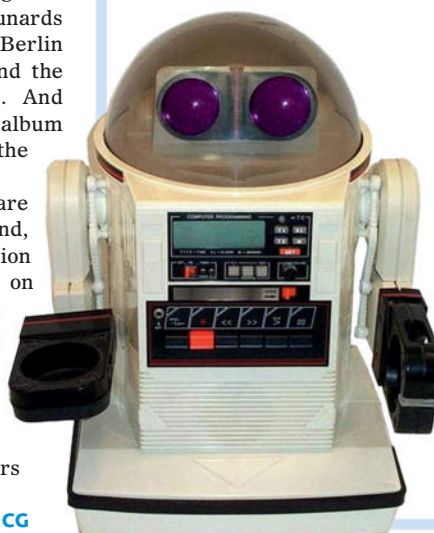
ABOVE

The Jaguar XJR9 from Corgi was one of the more exciting diecast releases during this year.



LEFT

The Care Bears franchise simply grew and grew, far beyond the original cuddly creatures.



ABOVE

He-man sales were going from strength to strength (pun intended).

LEFT

This is the Junior version of Tomy's Omnibot. The shape of things to come?

Answer: 1986

Scrooge gauge trains

Yuletide greetings are rare in the serious world of collectable trains, but this year **Mark Nolan** turns back the clock to bring you festive Christmas trains from the past, the present and the future.

In the gloomy ex-railway town of Beastleigh, there lived a mean-spirited toy train collector by the name of Ebenezer Scrooge. He was a tall, gaunt man with a long, pointed nose and a perpetual scowl etched on his face. His once-grand mansion had become a cold, dark place filled with shelves upon shelves of toy trains, each one meticulously displayed but devoid of joy.

Ebenezer Scrooge's obsession with toy trains had consumed him, driving away friends and family alike. He cared for nothing and no one except for his prized possessions. He was known throughout the town as 'The Trainmaster', a title he wore with a perverse sense of pride.

On a bitter Christmas Eve, as Scrooge was counting his trains, he heard the faint sound of bells outside his window. It was the cheerful laughter of children playing in the snow, a sound that grated on his ears like flange squeal on a tight curve. He muttered to himself, "Bah, humbug! What nonsense is this?"

As the evening wore on, Scrooge retired to his cold, dimly lit bedroom. Just as he was about to drift off to sleep, he thought he heard the sound of heavy chains dragging up the stairs. Was it a train being coupled up? Scrooge made a mental note to eat less ultra-processed food as it was obviously affecting his digestion.

Then a ghostly figure appeared at the foot of his bed.

It was his former train collecting partner, Jacob Marley, instantly recognisable by the engine driver's hat he used to wear at swapmeets. The apparition was wrapped in heavy chains made of toy train tracks and locomotive wheels.

"I see as my executor you sent half my trains to the auction and kept the rest," said Marley. "No matter, I don't need them where I am now."

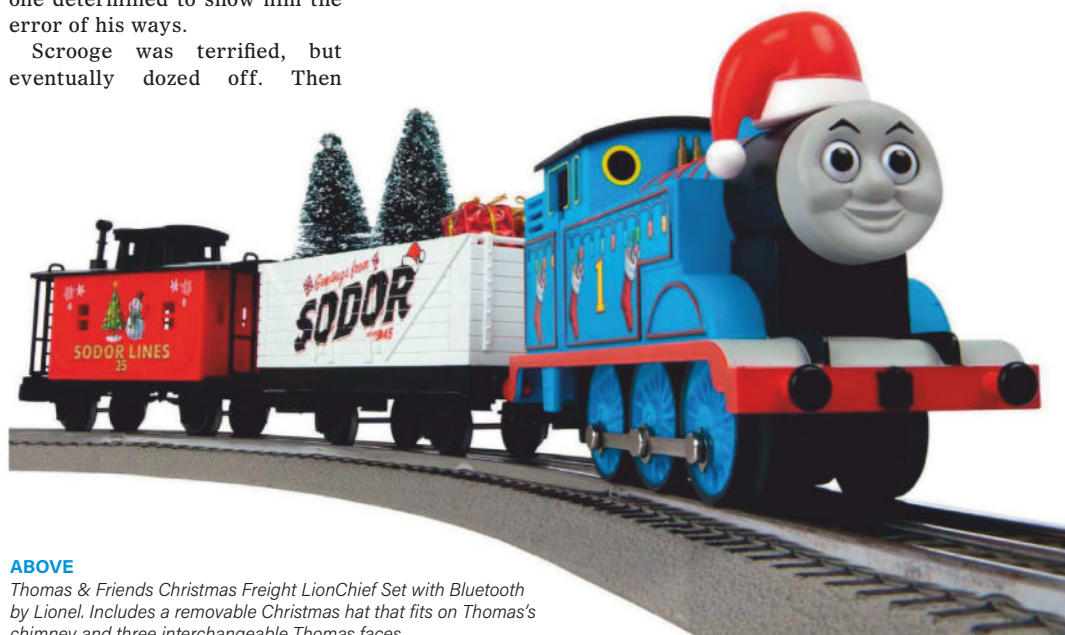
Then Marley's ghost warned Scrooge of the dire fate that awaited him if he continued down his heartless path. He told him that he would be visited by three spirits that night, each one determined to show him the error of his ways.

Scrooge was terrified, but eventually dozed off. Then



ABOVE

R1233M The Coca-Cola Christmas Train Set. 'Resplendent in a Coke Red livery, this officially licensed train set for the adult collector offers an almost timeless iconic interpretation of the Coca-Cola brand, representing the logistics involved in bringing Coke by rail, from the factory to the doorstep.'



ABOVE

Thomas & Friends Christmas Freight LionChief Set with Bluetooth by Lionel. Includes a removable Christmas hat that fits on Thomas's chimney and three interchangeable Thomas faces.

BELOW

Lionel Disney Mickey Mouse Christmas Set. 'All aboard the Mickey Mouse Express! Help with Mickey's special delivery and join Mickey, Minnie, Donald Duck and Goofy spread the Christmas spirit in this present filled Disney set. Bring a dose of holiday cheer to your track layout with these iconic characters dressed in their Christmas best.'



RIGHT

R1248M Santa's Express train set. 'Santa's special train includes his very own steam engine, a wagon full of presents and a closed van in which he transports his sleigh. The spritely little engine, with its colourful seasonal livery, is more than capable of pulling such as important train around the base of your Christmas tree, delivering seasonal cheer on the oval of track, included in this set.'



ABOVE

Hornby R60140 Santa's Present Wagon. 'This present carrying van allows Santa to transport his gifts while keeping them protected from the bitter arctic snow. The logistical challenges involved in loading the sleigh and delivering any presents that don't fit in it is daunting, but this wagon always meets the challenge.'



ABOVE

Piko 37105 G scale Christmas Train with rails. 'This Christmas starter set is equipped with a detailed Christmas USA Steam Locomotive, two Christmas freight cars, track, transformer and controller. Suitable for outdoor use, the included track covers an area of 140 x 140cm and can be easily extended using the PIKO track system. The locomotive has directional lighting and can be retro-fitted with a Digital Decoder and a smoke generator.'

the first spirit, the Ghost of Christmas Past, manifested and whisked Scrooge away to his childhood. He saw himself as a lonely boy who found solace in playing with a simple wooden train set. Scrooge was overcome with nostalgia and regret as he realised how far he had strayed from the innocent joy of his youth. He saw the simple Hornby M Series clockwork train with two coaches and a circle of track. How happy he had been! What had happened to his naive innocence?

Next, the Ghost of Christmas Present took Scrooge on a journey through the town. He witnessed the poverty and suffering of those less fortunate than himself, including his own employee, Bob Cratchit, who was on a zero hours contract and could barely afford food and heating, let alone toys for his children. Cratchit's son Tim was playing with a broken Tri-ang Princess Elizabeth loco. It had no tender and the wheels didn't turn, but Tim was transfixed, making train noises and pushing the loco by hand. "How can you enjoy that old thing?" cried Scrooge. Then his heart began to soften as he saw the happiness that could be found in the simplest of toy trains.

Finally, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come showed Scrooge a bleak future, one in which he died alone and unloved, his vast collection of toy trains gathering dust and forgotten.

Frightened by what he had seen, Scrooge begged the spirit for a chance to change his ways. He promised to be generous and kind, to share his wealth with those in need, and to find joy in more than just his trains.

As the clock struck midnight, Scrooge awoke in his own bed, relieved that it had all been a dream. But he knew that he had been given a second chance, and he wasted no time in redeeming himself. He donated half his vast collection of toy trains to the children of Beastleigh, bringing smiles to their faces and warmth to his own heart.

But he went a step further. Remembering the fascination of the huge layouts they used to put in toy shops in the run up to Christmas, Scrooge had tables built and put on a huge display, the likes of which had never been seen before. Children and adults alike were fascinated by the collectable trains whizzing around the layout.

From that day forward, Ebenezer Scrooge learned to share his trains and became a beloved figure in the town, known for his generosity and kindness. He discovered that true happiness could not be found in possessions, but in the love and compassion he shared with others.

And so, the tale of the mean-spirited toy train collector became a story of redemption and the transformative power of Christmas. **CG**

Turtle-y awesome

Rob Burman takes a look at whether you should be shelling out for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles figures following this summer's blockbuster outing.

After chopping and kicking their way onto the big screen earlier this year in *Mutant Mayhem*, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles - or Hero Turtles for those of a nervous English disposition - have been filling up the toy shelves once more. So you may be thinking that perhaps now's the time to start collecting these radical dudes! However, do the Turtles ooze class or is buying them like flushing your hard-earned cash down the sewer?

In some ways, it's bizarre that the Turtles even spawned a toylife. Originally created in the 1980s the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles - or perhaps more appropriately the Middle-Aged Mutant Ninja Turtles, considering their current age - were a comic collaboration by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird. Inspired by popular Marvel comics, like *Daredevil*, Eastman drew the original 'ninja turtle' as a joke to make Laird laugh. After all, what could be more ridiculous than a slow-moving turtle pulling off athletic ninja moves?

The first *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle* comics were printed in 1984 after Eastman and Laird founded the fledgling publisher, Mirage Studios, in their own home. Originally, the style was more gritty-looking than the kid-friendly mutants we've come to recognise today. The comics were drawn in black and white and featured fairly brutal fight scenes between the Turtles and their arch enemy, Shredder. However, despite the fact they were originally drawn as a joke, the first 3,000 copies sold out in a few weeks and a new franchise was born.



ABOVE LEFT

As the Turtles' popularity started to decrease, their number of mutated allies was on the increase.



ABOVE RIGHT

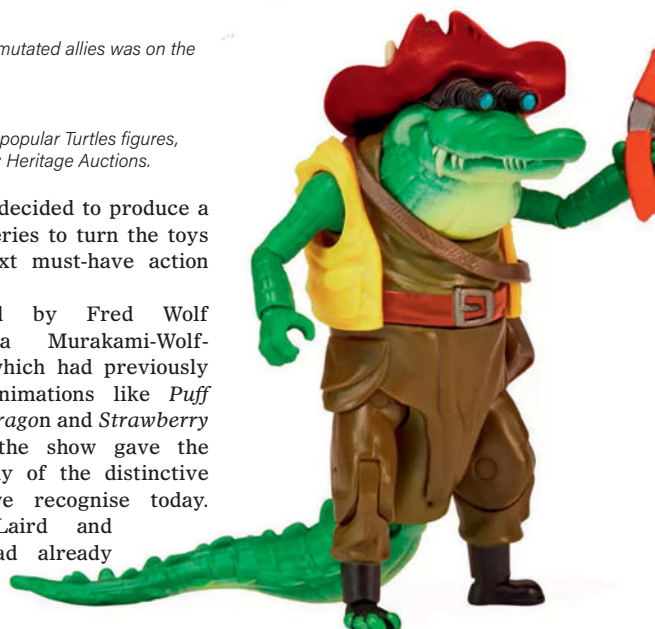
At the time of writing, Undercover Raphael is among the most popular Turtles figures, with this particular example selling for \$3,125. Picture courtesy: Heritage Auctions.

HEROES IN A HALF-SHELL

Although the comics had been selling well, it wasn't until 1987 when the Turtles really picked up and the merchandising juggernaut pulled into action. Eastman and Laird licensed the Turtles to Hong Kong-based toymaker Playmates. Arguably up until this point, Playmates was a small player in the international toy market, with the likes of Kenner or Mattel dominating the scene. In fact, Playmates took inspiration from Mattel's own He-man range when it came to marketing the

Turtles and decided to produce a television series to turn the toys into the next must-have action figure.

Developed by Fred Wolf Films (aka Murakami-Wolf-Swenson), which had previously produced animations like *Puff the Magic Dragon* and *Strawberry Shortcake*, the show gave the Turtles many of the distinctive elements we recognise today. Although Laird and Eastman had already





ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT A few of the enemy figures have become popular with collectors too, like this menacing Foot Soldier. Picture courtesy: Heritage Auctions; For us sensitive folk over here in the UK, the Ninja Turtles had to be renamed the Hero Turtles to stop kids becoming nunchuck-wielding maniacs. Picture courtesy: EasyLiveAuction.com; Regularly cited as the 'Holy Grail of Turtles Toys', Scratch is commanding some shell-shocking prices on eBay. Picture courtesy: eBay.

named them after Renaissance artists (Leonardo, Donatello, Michelangelo and Raphael), Fred Wolf Films added elements including the coloured bandanas, love of pizza, catchphrases like "Cowabunga" and the distinct personalities of each turtle. Most importantly though, they toned down some of the violence of the original comics and gave it a more light-hearted feel.

Then again, even the toned down version was too much for sensitive European audiences. In the early 80s the British Board of Film Censorship was extremely sensitive about so-called 'video nasties', like *The Evil Dead*, and the amount of violence (seemingly involving nunchucks) in martial arts films. As a result, British politicians were nervous about ninja-style toys being sold to kids and the turtles were swept up in this paranoia. Their name was changed to Hero Turtles and scenes of Michelangelo using his iconic nunchucks were heavily adapted for UK screens - even the show's intro was cut to remove a scene featuring the weapons.

Still, all this censorship didn't stop the Turtles becoming a cultural icon. Between 1988 and 1997 Playmates produced around 400 figures and dozens of vehicles and playsets. About \$1.1 billion worth of Turtles toys were sold in four years, making them the third

best-selling toys at the time, behind GI Joe and, you guessed it, *Star Wars*. In fact, Playmates proudly boasts on its website that by 1990 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles had an estimated 60% of the action figure market. With all that in mind, you'd think there would be some toys worth collecting, right?

PIZZA THE ACTION

As you might expect, the toys tend to make the big bucks in the States, where the show and comics were/are a cultural phenomenon. Some of the most popular and most valuable are the original Turtles figures produced in 1988 and originally sold for just \$3.99. Leonardo and co. tend to sell for around £150-170 on sites like eBay and will occasionally crop up at auction too.

However, if you're looking for the most valuable of the Turtles then keep your eyes peeled for Undercover Raphael. Released in 1994, Raphael came dressed in a fabric trenchcoat and fedora, similar to how he appeared in the 1990 live-action movie. Along with the snappy outfit, Raphael also included the following plastic accessories: Undercover Mutant Movie Camera, Infrared Google Goggles, Super Sensitive Eavesdroppin' Dish, Surveillance Spy Case, Private Eye Pistol, Spy Sais and an exclusive collector card. A graded Undercover Raphael sold

for \$3,125 in 2022 at Heritage Auctions.

What might come as a surprise though is that some of the more valuable collectables aren't a Turtle at all. Once the novelty of mutated amphibians wore off, Playmates looked to the rest of the animal kingdom for inspiration. Ducks, lions, moose, fish and even camels quickly got the mutation treatment, so keep your eyes out for names like Sandstorm, Halfcourt, Napoleon Bonafrog, Sergeant Bananas, King Lionheart and Monty Moose. Many of these were produced toward the end of the Turtles' popularity and were released from 1993 onwards and possibly in smaller numbers, compared to the original figures.

Out of these later releases, there are two in particular that are sought after. First up is Hot Spot, a fire-fighting Dalmatian with a fire hydrant accessory that's capable of squirting water. According to his description, this "piebald pal really likes to get the Foot Clan clean by dousin' 'em with his trusty, rusty squirtin' fire hydrant". The most recent Hot Spot sold at Heritage Auctions in 2022 made a tail-wagging \$1,375.

Ironically, considering the other rarity is a dog, another rare Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles figure is Scratch the Cat. This cat burglar is dressed in prison uniform and comes with a range of safe-cracking tools. Produced at the same time as Hot Spot, Scratch is sometimes cited as the 'Holy Grail of Turtles

Collectibles'... well, at least if you believe the eBay listings. Even out of its packaging, Scratch sells for around \$1,000 and, at the time of writing, there's a boxed one available on eBay for \$7,499.

Of course, with a new film recently in cinemas there's a whole host of new toys lining the shelves. Among the more recognisable Turtles there are also alternate characters, like Leatherhead the alligator or Superfly, which may be worth keeping an eye on... judging by how collectible some of the weirder figures from the 90s range have become. It also doesn't seem like the Turtles will be getting any less popular because the latest movie made an impressive \$180 million at the global box office, so you can certainly expect some sort of follow-up. In the words of the great Michelangelo: "Cowabunga, dudes!" **CG**

LEFT

Among the modern releases, some of the more obscure figures like Leatherhead, could become the collectibles of the future.

RIGHT

The original Playmates Turtles are still hugely popular and can fetch decent money in good condition. Picture courtesy: Heritage Auctions.



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Changing times

Andrew Ralston looks at how Dinky Toys tried to stimulate sales at Christmas in 1969.

For most children of the 1950s and 1960s, the products of Meccano Limited would have been high up on their list of requests to Santa Claus. The days of post-war austerity might have been over, but toys were still comparatively expensive items and many youngsters would only have their wishes granted on birthdays or at Christmas.

Toy shops encouraged customers to join 'Christmas clubs', the idea being to save up gradually, especially for the more expensive items like Meccano sets, Hornby Dublo train sets or Dinky gift sets. Meccano could even supply shops with a card on which instalments could be recorded – though the reverse side carried dire warnings that 'your choice of goods cannot be altered' and 'money cannot be refunded'.

During the sixties, though, Meccano Limited found the market increasingly difficult: it had already been taken over by the rival Lines Brothers (Tri-ang) firm and the once dominant Dinky range faced tough competition, especially from Corgi.

Even so, Dinky Toys still had plenty going for them. As had been the practice for many years, new models were announced month by month in the *Meccano Magazine* which, presumably, was read largely by those who were already enthusiastic about the company's products. The advertisement pictured here, however, shows Meccano attempting to appeal to a wider juvenile market via the *Lion & Eagle* comic. The comic market was just as competitive as the diecast one in this era and a rivalry existed between the *Eagle*, whose pages contained

RIGHT The Joe 90 car was typical of the trend towards TV and film-related toys at this time. Image: Vectis Auctions.



RIGHT The sophisticated, action-packed Dinkies of 1969 had little in common with their more basic 1950s predecessors such as this Ford Zephyr.

the adventures of Dan Dare, and *Lion* which had a rival character, Captain Condor. In 1969, these two titles merged to become *Lion & Eagle* though sales continued to decline and further mergers occurred in the decade that followed.

On the back page of the issue for 20 December, Dinky had a full colour advert for a selection of items that Meccano Limited hoped would be "top of your Christmas stocking list". These reflect the way things were moving in the diecast market: ten years earlier, it would have been sports, racing and saloon cars, but none of these figure amongst the most popular Dinkies of 1969. The emphasis is instead on TV and film-related items. Following Corgi's spectacular success with the James Bond Aston Martin, Dinky scored a hit in 1967 with two models from Gerry

Anderson's *Thunderbirds* series, Lady Penelope's Rolls Royce and Thunderbird II, and followed these up the next year with a trio of vehicles from *Captain Scarlet*. It was only natural that in 1969 Dinky would bring out new models from the current Gerry Anderson television series, *Joe 90*. One was Joe's car, fitted with a battery-powered light to represent a flashing exhaust and Sam's Car, with its 'keyless clockwork motor', very much like the pull back and go type of mechanism later fitted to so many Chinese-made diecast cars in the 1980s and 1990s.

Equally topical for Christmas in 1969 was a pair of World War II aircraft, a Spitfire and Junkers Ju 87B which had been introduced in October, just after the release of the epic film *Battle of Britain*. While full of impressive aerial action, the film was hugely

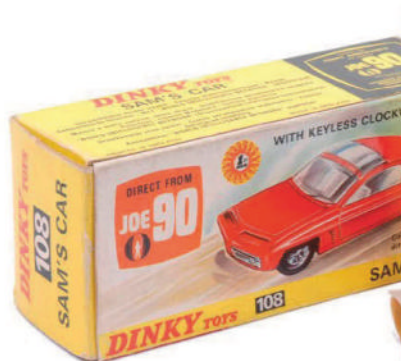




FAR LEFT Advertisement on the back page of this comic from 1969 highlights Dinky's most exciting models for the Christmas season.

CENTRE The comic was an amalgamation of two earlier titles, 'Lion' and 'Eagle' whose sales had been declining.

LEFT In the 1950s, customers could reserve their Meccano, Hornby and Dinky products at their local toy shop and pay them up in time for Christmas delivery. This card carries the stamp of Standen's of Askew Road, London W12 which, like many shops of its kind, sold both toys and sports goods. Note the contrast between the fifties schoolboy with his cap and the boy pictured in the 1969 ad!



ABOVE The other Joe 90 model, Sam's Car. Image: Vectis Auctions.

LEFT Dinky's Spitfire Mk II capitalised on the epic film of the Battle of Britain released in September 1969. Image: Vectis Auctions.

expensive to produce and proved not to be a profitable venture for its makers. It has also been suggested that anti-war feeling resulting from the Vietnam war made the film less popular than it might have been. All that, however, would not have put off schoolboys for whom the Battle of Britain still provided the inspiration behind many a playground game. Meccano must have felt the *Eagle* & *Lion* comic was the ideal place to advertise the new planes as every week it contained a story about the 'RAF's No. 1 WWII Flying Ace' Squadron-Leader Paddy Payne. The two new Dinkies were full of exciting action features: a battery-operated propeller on the Spitfire and a dropping cap-firing bomb on the Junkers, ensuring that boys could have plenty of fun re-enacting aerial warfare of the past with their new Christmas gifts.

Action features were just as important on the remaining

two models, the dragster which could shoot away from a spring-loaded starter unit and the Merryweather Marquis Fire Tender, the only everyday vehicle in the advert which, in addition to ladders and opening parts, had a pump-operated water jet.

Joe's Car and the Merryweather were particularly heavy and complex models to make, a fact reflected in their selling price of 25 shillings and elevenpence each. While that sum equates to approximately £1.30 in today's money, which doesn't sound much, it does not reflect the effects of inflation. In terms of purchasing power today's equivalent would be about £20, so that few youngsters could have afforded to buy either of these fine models out of their own pocket money.

Notice, too, how Dinky was trying to change its image to fit the times: the neatly-dressed schoolboys in shorts and caps seen in Meccano's adverts of the previous decade had given way to a boy in a trendy jumper making a confident 'thumbs-up'

gesture, accompanied by the slogan 'leaders go for Dinky Toys'. A decade earlier Dinkies would have been described as 'unsurpassed for realism and wealth of detail'; now they're defined as 'the tough, action-packed models'. In their early days, Dinky Toys consisted of little more than a bodyshell and four wheels; the play value emerged from what the child chose to do with them, whether it involved creating traffic jams under the dining room table or racing cars across the ground to see which one would go furthest. But by 1969 a toy car had to incorporate as many gimmicks as possible; in other words, the play value came from the design features of the toy itself rather than from the child's imagination.

In the long-term, though, even that wasn't enough. Times and tastes were changing rapidly. But who in 1969 would have thought that, within another ten years, the famous Binns Road factory would have closed down altogether? **CG**



Remembering Sindy

Sindy's Diamond anniversary could mean gold for collectors, as **Libby Parfitt** finds out.

Given the explosion of fans wearing pink and feeling the 'Kenergy' you could be forgiven for thinking that 2023 belongs to Barbie. But in the background, a less ostentatious, more realistically shaped and decidedly British icon is quietly reaching her 60th anniversary: Sindy, the doll you love to dress.

Sindy was ground-breaking from the moment she emerged onto the catwalk, becoming the first UK toy ever advertised on TV through a series of 30 second commercials broadcast across London. She was a new type of toy, not a baby but a fashion doll, a figure that both looked like and, crucially, dressed like the teenager of the swinging '60s that girls aspired to be.

Sindy was created to be a British alternative to Barbie who had launched just four years prior. Pedigree Toys, Sindy's creator, were initially approached by toy giant Mattel and offered the license to distribute Barbie in the UK, but market research showed British buyers just didn't relate to the all-American goddess. Pedigree decided instead to create a doll that was a relatable but ultra-fashionable version of the girl next door, who, rather than sporting an entirely unrealistic physique, mirrored the much more accessible measurements of a contemporary size 10. She also had flat feet, allowing her to wear comfortable shoes in contrast to Barbie's permanent tiptoe posture!

After running a street poll where little girls were shown a picture of the doll and given the choice of names, 'Cindy' was the clear winner; Pedigree decided

spelling it with an 'S' made the doll more memorable and a legend was born. Launched in September 1963 (just in time for the Christmas rush) retailers were even sent a promotional 45 RPM record introducing Sindy as "the free, swinging girl that every little girl longs to be."

Sindy was an instant smash success and Pedigree even had to increase factory production to meet demand. She won toy of the year in both 1968 and 1970, and at her most popular had 80% of the UK's fashion doll market, leaving Barbie far behind. Parents liked Sindy because she felt more wholesome than her US counterpart; kids loved her fashions, friends, and incredible range of accessories. Many a little girl of the 1970s and '80s (including this one!) was denied a Barbie but would excitedly wake up to a Sindy on Christmas Day and many current Sindy collectors are those little girls who are now all grown up.

Sindy's fashions were integral to her success from the very beginning. Sindy wasn't just about acquiring new figures; much of the brand's appeal lay in the myriad different outfits and accessories you could buy to change up your doll's look. Many a hairstyling or accessorizing tip was shared in the playground! This was another stroke of marketing genius, as, while the dolls were often reserved for Christmas or birthdays, a new set of cool clothes could be afforded simply by saving a few weeks' pocket money.

And boy, did Sindy have fashion credibility! She first hit shelves in a trendy casual Weekender outfit of blue bell-bottom jeans and a striped top, with a proud Made in England tag



LEFT
Throughout the '70s and '80s Sindy kept up with the latest trends, like these roller skating outfits complete with Walkman. Image: Jessica Haree.

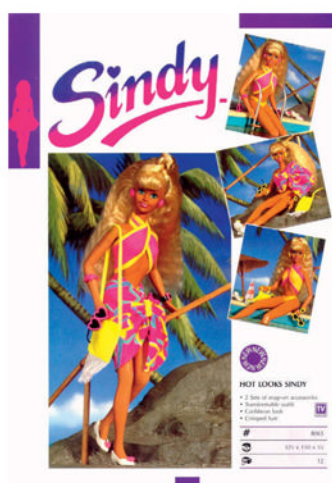


RIGHT
Ballerina Sindy is a bestselling classic '70s figure that remains hugely popular with collectors today. Image: www.OurSindyMuseum.com

JUST AS VALUABLE?

Over the years, Sindy gained a variety of companions who are collectable in their own right. Her boyfriend, Paul, was the first to appear in 1965. Supposedly named after Paul McCartney, he was described by the leaflet as "a well-dressed young man" – something that would be very important to Sindy! Paul's outfits have some fantastic details: his 1965 And So To Bed outfit included a tiny washbag with toothbrush, soap and even a minuscule electric razor, whilst 1966's Medical Student even came with a diminutive plastic skeleton! Paul's original '60s outfits range between £20 and as much as £80 for mint NRFB examples. Sindy's "naughty little sister", Patch, followed in 1966 with her original doll sporting tomboyish denim dungarees which, in good boxed condition, could land £100 or more.





ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

Royal Mail included Sindy in their 2017 stamp collection celebrating classic British toys; Sindy debuted in a casual Weekender outfit Image: www.OurSindyMuseum.com; Sindy was updated in the '90s to look more like her rival, Barbie, but it wasn't a popular move with consumers; Sindy's outfits were incredibly detailed, like this 1982 rodeo outfit which included a fringed shirt, cowboy hat and even white Western boots. Images: www.OurSindyMuseum.com.

and brunette, blonde or auburn hair styled into a '60s bubble cut. Pedigree tasked ultra-cool '60s fashion designers Foale and Tuffin to help create Sindy's wardrobe, with a sparkly pink party dress complete with record player and record to "make the party swing" in her Dream Date outfit and a glamorous black trench coat, red boots and red umbrella for Shopping In The Rain. For collectors, these early editions can be extremely desirable, especially if they have never been removed from the box (or NRFB as collectors say). A good condition Shopping In The Rain outfit complete with

all accessories could net around £60, whilst a similar condition original boxed Weekender Sindy doll could be worth over £200. Make sure that you've got that Made in England tag, though, as some of these outfits were later reproduced when manufacturing moved to Hong Kong in 1967 and are less valuable to collectors.

Sindy stayed true to her fashionable and aspirational roots throughout the '70s and '80s. 1971 saw Sindy remodelled into what collectors now call the Trendy Girl doll with a slightly smaller head and silky eyelashes. Sindy also gained a tan for the first time, moving away from the English rose colouring of the original doll. This re-sculpt was issued with a plethora of new clothes including the Trendy Girl outfit, comprising a typically '70s yellow and red stripy top, with red flares, red ankle boots and a headband. This generation of Sindy remains ever popular with collectors, with just the dolls retailing on internet auction sites for around £80 and desirable items of clothing fetching between £10 and £30. One fantastic element of collecting Sindy is also its biggest challenge: sets were released with a lot of accessories that inevitably got lost to the winds of time (or just the back of the sofa) meaning that there's a considerable market for individual accessories from collectors wanting to complete outfits or playsets.

In 1985, following Princess Diana's wedding to Prince Charles, the designers of her iconic wedding dress, David and

RIGHT

Paul's outfits also came with an incredible level of detail, like this 1967 tennis look complete with three tiny tennis balls. Image: www.OurSindyMuseum.com



LEFT

Sindy was stylishly prepared for any occasion, like this winter sports look. Image: www.OurSindyMuseum.com

Elizabeth Emanuel, released a series of Sindy outfits including the flouncy bright pink High Society, tiered yellow Romantica ballgown and the almost bridal white Romance and Roses dress, all now valued around £30 to £60. Sadly, the '80s saw Sindy decline as Barbie resurged into British market share. In 1986 Pedigree sold the rights to toy giant Hasbro, who remodelled Sindy to look more like Barbie: this move didn't go down well with consumers and, despite Barbie's 30th birthday in 1993 being celebrated with a party where she wore a bespoke Vivienne Westwood outfit, Sindy's appeal continued to wane. Only two tiny versions of this outfit were ever made, with one making £260 at

an auction in 2017 despite the fact it was missing a shoe, and the other now safely stored in the V&A Museum of Childhood.

Sadly, Sindy has yet to regain the market dominance she showed in the 1960s and '70s. Pedigree Toys recently announced that they've got great plans for Sindy's 60th anniversary year so let's watch this space and hope that our favourite girl will be back following in her American rival's steps and celebrating her 'Sindy-viduality' very soon! **CG**

MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in learning more about Pedigree Sindy, visit www.oursindymuseum.com



10 minute TOY EXPERT!

Raleigh Chopper

Sadly I never owned a Raleigh Chopper myself, but I do remember riding the brilliant orange ones the kids next door had for Christmas in 1971. Our neighbours were fruit and vegetable wholesalers and always had a good bit of cash to splash on their lucky offspring. I made do with my old green Raleigh Superbe handed down to me by my uncle Jack... Nothing flash about that!

Nobody on our cobbled street had ever seen such a weird looking bike as the Chopper. I often wonder what Raleigh founder Frank Bowden would have thought of the 'Chopper'?

Bowden was a pioneer of the British cycle industry, although his personal introduction to cycling at the age of twenty eight was not for purposes of pleasure. Bowden returned to England from Hong Kong in 1887 suffering from a mystery illness, he thought he was dying, but a doctor thought

otherwise and ordered him simply to take in fresh air and exercise. He turned to cycling, buying a bicycle from the Nottingham firm of Woodhead, Angois and Ellis. The doctor was right and the cycling did Bowden a power of good. In six months he was cured.

Frank Bowden immediately realised the great potential of cycling for health purposes and bought shares in Woodhead, Angois and Ellis. He became a Director in 1890 and the firm was re-named Raleigh as the workshop was located on Raleigh Street. A new logo was created featuring a Heron from the Bowden family crest when Bowden bought the company.

Growth was rapid and Raleigh built a huge new factory on Faraday Road, in the Nottingham suburb of Radford, in 1896. A network of official Raleigh stockists was set up throughout the country with each retailer receiving a special framed certificate with an official seal

personally signed by Frank Bowden.

From its humble beginnings in a small workshop, where twelve men made three bicycles per week, Raleigh had become the world's largest cycle factory employing 850 workers with its own 34 acre sports ground by the outbreak of the Great War, when Raleigh was turned over to munitions work alongside bicycles. Frank Bowden died in 1921 at the age of 73 after which his son Harold took the helm.

In the 1920s Raleigh expanded into the production of motor cycles, cars and light vans including the three-wheeled Safety-Seven which was the forerunner of the iconic Reliant three-wheeler. It was former Raleigh Workshop Manager T. L. Williams who purchased the car production equipment from Raleigh in order to form the Reliant Motor Company in Tamworth.

By 1942 the workforce had risen to a mighty 9,000 and once again munitions including fuses, shells

and mortars were manufactured during World War II, alongside 200,000 army cycles. The factory also had its own Home Guard platoon numbering 346 men and a Bomb Disposal Team.

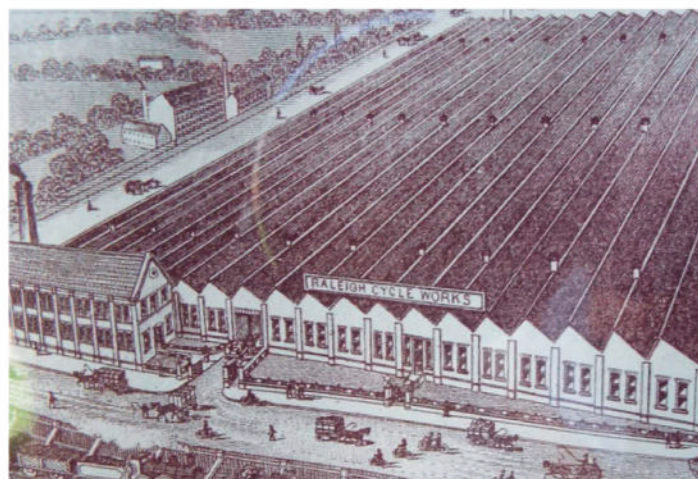
After the war the Raleigh All-Steel bicycle was the mainstay of the company once again and was exported all over the world. They were made by cold pressing high grade steel, each cycle requiring around 1,500 separate parts, all of which, other than leather and rubber parts, were made in-house. Raleigh was famed for its robust and trusty Sturmey-Archer gears and the frictionless 'Dynohub' which revolutionised cycle lighting. The detachable chain wheel was another design innovation that kept Raleigh ahead of the market.

The signing of legendary British cycling champion Reg Harris in 1949 boosted the name of Raleigh and was a tremendous marketing coup which saw the Lenton sports bike become a market leader.





ABOVE Advertising material for the launch of the Chopper II.



ABOVE A print of the Raleigh Cycle Works factory circa 1899.



ABOVE You can buy kits to recondition old seats on eBay which include the iconic warning sign we all ignored.

RIGHT An original dealer certificate.

being immortalised in former Raleigh worker Allan Sillitoe's box office cinema smash *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*.

Raleigh fought back, however, and the 1960s saw the company reach its pinnacle in terms of design and innovation, beginning with the introduction of the RSW16 and the folding RSW Compact - no doubt based on the paratrooper folding bikes it made during the war. These versatile fat wheel (Moulton-style) cycles were not fast but they proved extremely popular with the public. They paved the way for the bike that made Raleigh most famous and generated much needed cash... the iconic Chopper.

Raleigh had attempted to market a new concept children's bike in 1966 with the Mustang but it proved unpopular so the design team went in search of further inspiration. The Chopper was the brainchild of Raleigh's then Design Director, Alan Oakley, a local man who had worked at the factory since the war years when he served his time as a trainee draughtsman. He was sent to the West Coast of America in 1967 at the height of 'Flower Power' to take a first-hand look at the American youth culture of the

day. Oakley observed kids in California customising their pedal bikes to look like the Chopper motorcycles being rode by bikers and hippies and made his first design sketch on the back of an envelope on the long flight home.

Oakley's design certainly embraced the look of a chopper motorbike featuring 'ape-hanger' handlebars, chunky tread tyres on big rear wheels and smaller front wheels like a dragster, long padded seat and tall back rest with a hoop resembling a dragster anti-roll 'cissy bar.' The star feature was the super swish racing car style gear shift lever mounted on the cross-bar to operate the obligatory Sturmey Archer hub gears.

do wheelies was, I suppose, inevitable as the element of danger was all part of the fun of being a Chopper rider. Raleigh responded by printing warnings on the seat and implemented further safety measures when the Mark Two Chopper was released in 1972. The seat was positioned further forward and the rounded gear knob was replaced by a T-bar design. The most important new safety feature was the welding of the handle bars to the main stem as it had become fashionable to angle them back as far as possible! The Chopper proved a great success and led to other innovative children's bicycles to be developed by

There was a 40% downturn in the cycling market and Raleigh was in trouble, despite being immortalised in former Raleigh worker Allan Sillitoe's box office cinema smash *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*.

The first Chopper cycles were sold in America in 1969 although sales were not all that encouraging to begin with. Things changed dramatically, however, following the release of the cult film *Easy Rider* on 4 September 1969 in which two hippie bikers, Wyatt and Billy (Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper) embark on an epic road journey from LA to New Orleans on their chopper motorbikes. The timing was perfect for Raleigh as it coincided with the launch of the Chopper bike in Britain.

Available in a range of bright dazzling colours the early bikes cost from £32 up to £55 for the deluxe models of which there were many variations.

It was not all plain sailing however. Safety warnings had to be issued as chopper accidents were soon being reported. The temptation for kids to ride pillion on the rear carrier and

Raleigh including the Chipper, Tommahawk, Budgie and Chippy. Alan Oakley then went on to design the Grifter in 1976 which proved to be another hugely popular kids bike with handle grip gear change but it never eclipsed the iconic Chopper. It is estimated that around 1.5 million Raleigh Choppers were sold between 1968 and 1982 and it remains the most iconic bicycle ever made by the Raleigh company.

Eventually the Chopper gave way to the BMX (Bicycle Motor Cross) bikes after the film *ET* introduced kids to a new type of bike and a new craze. This was followed by the Mountain Bike era.

The Chopper returned briefly with the Mark 3 in 2004 although these were made in the Far East.

Alan Oakley died in May 2012 but the bike that he designed is still regarded as the best kids bike ever to be built in Britain. **CG**

Raleigh absorbed the names of many other cycle makers over the years via takeovers including famous names like Humber, Rudge-Whitworth, Robin Hood, Triumph, BSA and Carlton.

The factory was extended to cope with increased demand and, by the early 1950s Raleigh was exporting 70% of its output to 140 overseas markets.

In 1960 Raleigh Industries was taken over by the TI Group (Tube Investments) absorbing further brands including Phillips, Hercules, Norman and Sun.

Difficult times lay ahead, however, as the cycle industry had encountered a slump. More people were turning towards cars and motorcycles as their regular mode of transport. There was a 40% downturn in the cycling market and Raleigh was in trouble, despite

Famous Faces

STAR WARS DROIDS & EWOKS

Remembering collectables that found fame through books, comics and the silver screen.

We all know that *Star Wars* is a collecting juggernaut. The equivalent of an earthquake that continues to send shockwaves throughout the collecting community. Over the past decade, its seismic auction results have toppled the great towers of diecast, the safe haven of model railways and continues to level auctioneers with astronomical prices. With the new *Star Wars* spin-offs hitting cinemas all the time, we're reminded once again of its massive social impact. Pretty much everywhere you look throughout December, it's likely you'll be greeted by the shadow of the notorious Death Star. However, *Star Wars* wasn't always such a sure fire success and some of the previous spin-offs weren't quite as slick.

After the release of *Return of the Jedi* in 1983, it seemed like George Lucas' money train had pulled into the station and wasn't going anywhere soon. After all, *Return of the Jedi* completed the trilogy of films and, at that point, there wasn't any suggestion of sequels, let alone prequels! In the 1980s though, Kenner's incredible toy range was in a powerful position and between 1978 and 1985 more than 300 million of Kenner's *Star Wars*-related merchandise had made it to market. So there must have been some concern at Kenner HQ when the final credits rolled after the Battle of Endor, that the profits were going to dry up!

But the end was not in sight for *Star Wars* and there must have been an initial sigh of relief among the Kenner bigwigs when they heard ABC/Lucasfilm had commissioned production studio Nelvana to produce not one but two brand new *Star Wars* cartoons! The first was *Droids* (released in 1985), which told the adventures of the franchise's loveable robots: R2-D2 and C-3PO. Along the way, the robotic Chuckle Brothers



ABOVE

This was the first time Kenner had produced a toy version of the A-Wing Fighter.

got into a series of scrapes and ended up facing off against space gangsters, pirates, criminals and even the notorious bounty hunter Boba Fett. Actor Anthony Daniels even reprised his role as C-3PO to lend the series a bit of acting gravitas, darling!

Alongside *Droids*, Nelvana also produced *Ewoks*, starring the cuddly space teddies that had delighted (or disgusted, depending your point of view) audiences in *Return of the Jedi*. Ewoks centred around Wicket W. Warrick and his life on the Forest Moon of Endor before those pesky Imperials arrived and set up their Force Field Generator on the planet. So, instead of facing off against the Empire, Warrick and pals fought the Duloks, an Ewok-like race who aren't anywhere near as cuddly or cute (which is probably why they fought the Ewoks all the time).

Both series were aimed at a much

younger audience than the *Star Wars* films and the animation was rather crude. As a result, neither series really had much cultural impact and both disappeared from TV screens the following year after just 13 episodes of *Droids* and 35 of *Ewoks*.

THE TOY LINES

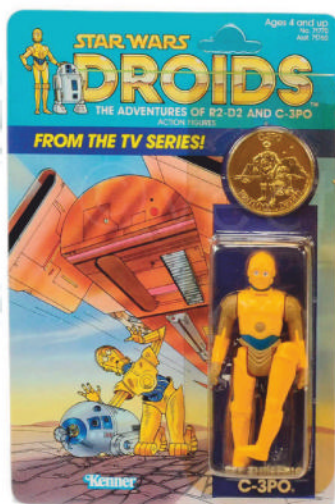
Of course, just because the cartoons weren't actually any good, that didn't stop Kenner lining up a new range of toys. For *Droids* it initially had 12 characters: Jann Tosh, A-Wing Pilot, Boba Fett, C-3PO, R2-D2, Jord Dusat, Kea Moll, Kez Iban, Sise Fromm, Thall Joben, Tigg Fromm and Uncle Gundy. Although packaged in

the now familiar method of blister on a card, the style was once again aimed at a younger market, with brighter and bolder images to attract those toy-hungry infants. Alongside the figures, each of the toys also came with a golden coin, similar to those included with *The Power of the Force* line. Kenner also produced three vehicles



ABOVE

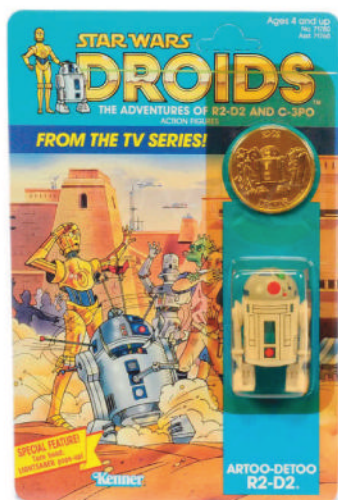
This Kenner *Star Wars The Power of the Force* Ewok Battle Wagon, sold at Vectis for £320.



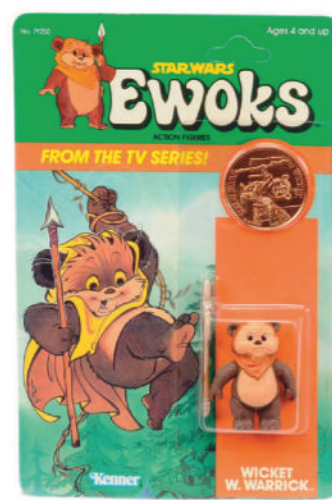
ABOVE Compared to the standard Star Wars toys, it was obvious that Droids figures were aimed at a much younger audience.



ABOVE The ugly appearance of the Duloks may explain why they were never particularly popular. Plus, they were the 'bad guys' in a show aimed at young kids.



ABOVE Each of the Droids action figures came with a coin, similar to the Power of the Force range.



ABOVE Warwick was the star of the Ewoks cartoon and one of the more memorable 'space teddies' from Return of the Jedi.



ABOVE Vlix has become one of the most sought after retail Star Wars products ever. This one sold for £12,000 at Vectis Auctions.



based on the *Droids* series: the ATL Interceptor, Side Gunner and A-Wing Starfighter. The latter was perhaps the most interesting as Kenner had never produced an A-Wing Starfighter before.

Meanwhile for Ewoks, Kenner had a slightly smaller line-up, consisting of: Dulok Scout, Logray, Dulok Shaman, King Gorneesh, Wicket W. Warrick and Urgah Lady

Gorneesh. Again, the Ewoks also had the metal coins to accompany the figures. However, it seems a frankly bizarre decision that Kenner opted to include so many Duloks, rather than the titular Ewoks in the initial line-up of toys. By their very nature, the Duloks are basically more ugly versions of the Ewoks, so who in their right mind would want to buy them?

However, with the TV series failing to capture the attention of audiences and even the popularity of *Star Wars* on the slide - as it was overshadowed by new crazes, like Transformers, He-Man or GI Joe - sales for the Ewoks and Droids ranges were nothing like the previous highs of Kenner's glory days. This meant that a planned second range of toys for both Droids and Ewoks never officially hit the shelves. For Droids Kenner had planned eight new figures: Vlix, Mon Julpa, Governor Koong, Kleb Zellock, Gaff, Mungo Baobab, Jessica Meade and Admiral Screed. Meanwhile the Ewoks range would have been bolstered with: Chief Chirpa, Paploo, Weechee, Morag, Bondo (leader of the Jindas) and Chitur (Jinda animal trainer). Prototypes of all the figures above have surfaced over the years and it's estimated there are between 10 and 20 of each in circulation.

Perhaps the most interesting of those extra characters is Vlix, a henchman of Sise Fromm

in the series. You see, Vlix did have an exceptionally limited retail release, after Brazilian toy manufacturer Glasslite picked up the license to produce *Star Wars* toys from Kenner. They produced a very number of retail Vlix figures that were rumoured to be the stuff of legend.. until they started cropping up for sale. A little like the prototypes, it's thought there are only 20 Vlix figures still sealed on their card and one sold at Vectis Auctions for £12,000... making it one of the most expensive retail *Star Wars* figures ever.

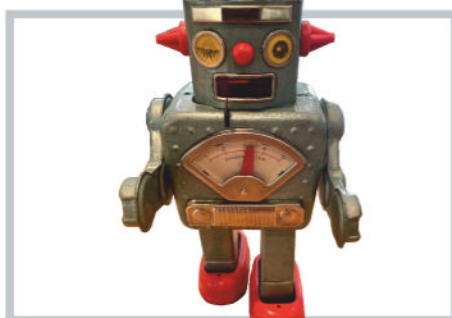
Does this mean that the once unloved Droids and Ewoks figures are finally starting to find fame? We asked Vectis' resident Jedi Master, Kathy Taylor: "I don't think that vintage *Star Wars* figures have peaked and toys inspired by Droids and Ewoks are no exception." So, now might be the time to dig out those 'junk' *Star Wars* figures you previously overlooked in favour of the more recognisable pieces. **CG**

eBay

From collectables of the future to old favourites, eBay always manages to produce some amazing finds... and even more amazing prices!



♦ **Item:** Ferrari F40 Competizione, 1/18
Condition: mint, in original Perspex display box, limited edition 03/10
Sold for: £1,340 (13 bids)



♦ **Item:** Yonezawa Japan Winky Robot
Condition: very good, wind-up function fully working and still sparks
Sold for: £730 (41 bids)



♦ **Item:** Exoto XS GPC97217 Peter Collins British GP winner 1958
Condition: as new, never assembled with no pitting to paintwork
Sold for: £917 (5 bids)



♦ **Item:** Toy Story Signature Collection Buzz Lightyear
Condition: brand new Tesco edition, signed and with utility belt
Sold for: £1,080 (16 bids)



♦ **Item:** Hot Wheels Mattel Redline Custom Volkswagen
Condition: playworn with paint work having seen better days
Sold for: £795 (32 bids)



♦ **Item:** Matchbox No.47 Trojan 1-ton van "Brooke Bond Tea"
Condition: near mint in excellent original box
Sold for: £741 (40 bids)



♦ **Item:** Pre-War French Dinky 24b limousine
Condition: good, originally finished in blue and then sprayed over before assembly
Sold for: £658 (28 bids)



♦ **Item:** Jakks Pacific Rocky Apollo Creed
Condition: figure excellent in brand new original packaging
Sold for: £1,500 (5 bids)



♦ **Item:** Pre-War Dinky Toys Delivery Van 28D "Oxo"
Condition: good example with smooth hubs and open rear windows
Sold for: £577 (22 bids)



Item: Kenner Star Wars Vinyl Cape Jawa
Condition: mint, UKG 85-80-80 %, in protective casing
Sold for: £1,800 (21 bids)



Item: Palitoy Action Force Cobra Commander
Condition: excellent, sealed but attached to an incorrect Z Force card for Gi Joe
Sold for: £1,716 (20 bids)



Item: Fallout Fusion Flea Orange
Condition: very good, front badge slightly off centre, number 292 of 300 made
Sold for: £1,019 (2 bids)



Item: Mattel He Man
Condition: some light age wear and loss of paint, no packaging
Sold for: £1,130 (20 bids)



Item: Corgi GS48 Gift Set Transporter
Condition: generally good plus to excellent apart from blue Mini
Sold for: £588.15 (23 bids)



Item: LEGO Star Wars Super Star Destroyer (10221) Set
Condition: box had been opened, with all original bags sealed
Sold for: £805 (31 bids)



Item: Matchbox Superfast No.31 Lincoln Continental
Condition: mint in original very good box
Sold for: £908.88 (17 bids)



Item: Scalextric Aston Martin Marshals Car
Condition: brand-new, unused, unopened and undamaged item
Sold for: £510 (23 bids)



Item: Britains Swoppets Knights No.7481
Condition: complete, mint in excellent to mint original box
Sold for: £875 (3 bids)



Item: Lone Star Harvey Series The Lone Ranger and Tonto Set
Condition: rare set, complete, excellent in very good to excellent box
Sold for: £713 (15 bids)



Item: LEGO Star Wars Finch Dallow Minifigure
Condition: mint, complete with all parts and never played with
Sold for: £740 (18 bids)



Item: Kay Bojesen (Denmark) 1950s teak and limba wood monkey
Condition: very early unmarked version, good for its age
Sold for: £2,651 (40 bids)

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ST IVES SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2023

One Leisure St Ives, Burgess Hall Events & Conference Centre, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6WU.

10am - 2pm >> approx. 125 tables >> 6ft table £33 >> Ad (16+) £3.50 Sen (65+) £3, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

BRENTWOOD SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2023

The Brentwood Centre, Doddington Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN.

10am - 2pm >> approx. 180 tables >> 6ft table £35 >> Ad (16+) £4, Sen (65+) £3.50, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

SPALDING SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2023

Springfields Events & Conference Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6ET

10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £33 >> Ad (16+) £3.50, Sen (65+) £3, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2023

The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA

10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £33 >> Ad (16+) £3.50, Sen (65+) £3, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

EAST MIDLANDS (Newark) NEW YEAR'S DAY MONDAY 1ST JANUARY 2024

Newark & Notts Showground, Winthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY

10am - 2pm >> approx. 200 tables >> 6ft table £40 >> Ad (16+) £5, Sen (65+) £4.50, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

BRENTWOOD SATURDAY 13TH JANUARY 2024

The Brentwood Centre, Doddington Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN.

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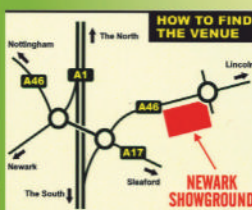
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PRICE GUIDE

Rounding up the latest toy sales from across the country with a brief visit to specialist auction rooms...



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Stormtrooper 3 3/4" figure, mint, within near mint bubble, upon good plus to excellent (light creasing) un-punched 12B back card. **Sold for £700, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Chewbacca 3 3/4" figure, mint complete, within good plus (light crush to stem), upon good (pop removed) punched 12C back card. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Walrus Man 3 3/4" figure, mint, within good plus (slightly lifting) bubble, upon fair to good (creased) punched 20 back card. **Sold for £280, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage The Empire Strikes Back C-3PO 3 3/4" figure, mint, within near mint bubble, upon fair (pop removed, minor surface and edge wear) punched 21 back card. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Jawa 3 3/4" figure, mint, within near mint bubble, upon excellent (slight wave) un-punched 12B back card. **Sold for £580, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Han Solo 3 3/4" figure, mint complete, within good (slit down one side) bubble, upon good (pop removed) punched 12C back card. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Hammerhead 3 3/4" figure, mint, within good plus (slightly dented and yellowed) bubble, upon fair to good (creased) punched 21 back card. **Sold for £360, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage The Empire Strikes Back Bespin Guard 3 3/4" figure, mint, within good plus (slight dent and yellowed) bubble, upon fair (creasing and surface wear) un-punched 45 back card. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Princess Leia 3 3/4" figure, near mint, within fair (cracked) bubble, upon good plus (edge wear) punched 12B back card. **Sold for £500, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Sand People 3 3/4" figure, mint complete, within good plus (slightly dented) bubble, upon good (pop removed) punched 20H back card. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Death Star Droid 3 3/4" figure, mint, within near mint bubble, upon excellent (light crease) punched 21 back card. **Sold for £440, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Palitoy Star Wars The Empire Strikes Back vintage TIE Fighter Pilot 3 3/4" figure, mint, within excellent (yellowed) bubble, upon near mint punched 45B back card. **Sold for £400, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Death Squad Commander 3 3/4" figure, mint complete, within fair (split to top) bubble, upon excellent (edge wear) punched 12B back card. **Sold for £360, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Ben Obi-Wan Kenobi 3 3/4" figure, mint, within excellent (dented stem) bubble, upon good (sticker damage) punched 21 back card. **Sold for £500, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Palitoy Star Wars vintage Power Droid 3 3/4" figure, mint, within excellent (lifting) bubble, upon good (creased) punched 21 back card. The back of the card behind the figure has been cut out, so figure can be removed. **Sold for £190, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi AT-AT Driver 3 3/4" figure, mint, within excellent (yellowed) bubble, upon near mint un-punched 79 back card. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Palitoy Star Wars Return of the Jedi vintage Boba Fett (Tri-logo Light Blue) 3 3/4" figure, mint, within near mint (yellowed) bubble, upon excellent (edge wear) punched 45 back card. Potentially assembled using loose figure, unused card back and bubble, ie not a factory sealed card. **Sold for £480, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Palitoy Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi Tri-logo Biker Scout 3 3/4" figure, mint, within good (dents) bubble, upon good (surface and edge wear) punched 79 back card. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage The Empire Strikes Back Cloud Car Pilot 3 3/4" figure, near mint, within near mint bubble, upon excellent (minor edge wear) unpunched 48 back card. **Sold for £480, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi Princess Leia Boushh 3 3/4" figure, near mint, within excellent (yellow) bubble, upon good plus (creased) punched 77 back card. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Palitoy Star Wars Return of the Jedi vintage Hoth Stormtrooper 3 3/4" figure, mint, within near mint (yellowed) bubble, upon excellent (light edge wear) punched 65 back card. Potentially assembled using loose figure, unused card back and bubble, ie not a factory sealed card. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi Walrus Man 3 3/4" figure, UKG graded Y80% Card 80 Bubble 80 Figure 85, upon unpunched 77A back card. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi IG-88 3 3/4" figure, near mint, within near mint (yellow) bubble, upon near mint unpunched 77 back card. **Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi Darth Vader 3 3/4" figure, near mint, within near mint bubble, upon good (creased) punched 77 back card. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Palitoy Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi Emperor's Royal Guard 3 3/4" figure, mint, within good plus (slight dents) bubble, upon Good (creasing) punched 65 back card. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars The Empire Strikes Back vintage Rebel Soldier (Hoth Battle Gear) 3 3/4" figure, AFA graded 80 Y-NM, Card 80 Bubble 80 Figure 85, upon unpunched 41 D back card. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi Power Droid 3 3/4" figure, near mint, within near mint (yellow) bubble, upon near mint punched 77 back card. **Sold for £440, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi Chief Chirpa 3 3/4" figure, near mint, within near mint bubble, upon excellent punched 77 back card. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Palitoy Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi Tri-Logo Bib Fortuna 3 3/4" figure, mint, within good plus (slight dents) bubble, upon excellent (edge wear) punched 79 back card. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars Return of the Jedi Tri-Logo EV-9D9 vintage 3 3/4" figure, UKG Graded 75%, Card 80% Bubble 75% Figure 90%, upon unpunched 79 back card. **Sold for £440, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi R5-D4 3 3/4" figure, near mint, within near mint (yellow) bubble, upon good (sticker wear and edge wear) punched 77 back card. **Sold for £280, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ Kenner Star Wars vintage Return of the Jedi Rebel Commando 3 3/4" figure, near mint, within excellent (yellow) bubble, upon excellent (minor surface wear) punched 77 back card. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October.**

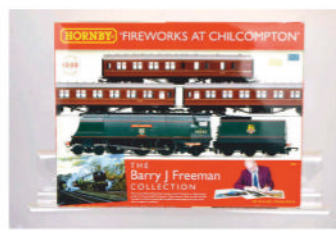




▲ **Marklin Mini Club Z Gauge 2002 German 50 Year Anniversary Baden-Württemberg Train Pack**, cased 81429 pack comprises BR 18 136 steam locomotive with tender in DB black crimson livery and three coaches in green livery, with booklet, good to excellent, case good. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Dapol N Gauge Pines Express Train Pack**, boxed 2S-103-010, includes Class 9F 92220 Evening Star in BR green and four Gresley maroon coaches, very good to excellent, box very good to excellent, foam inserts with tobacco odour. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Hornby China OO Gauge Barry J Freeman Collection Limited Edition Fireworks at Chilcompton Train Pack**, boxed R2908 pack includes, West Country Class locomotive with tender Dorchester 34042 in BR green, three maroon coaches, Print and certificate 307/1000, very good to excellent, box very good. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, October.**



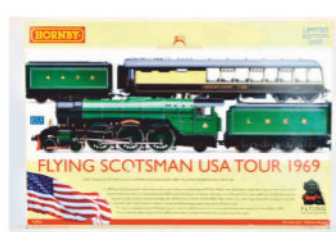
▲ **Hornby China Virgin Trains Pendolino Train Set**, boxed R1076 train set, includes Virgin Trains four car high speed Pendolino, track, controller, trackmat, appears complete but unchecked, good to excellent, box fair. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Graham Farish by Bachmann N Gauge BR Blue/Grey Two Car DMU**, cased with card sleeve, 371-887A Class 108 two car DMU in blue/grey livery, good to excellent, cases good to very good. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Hornby Arnold The Berliner Royal Corps of Transport Coach Pack**, boxed HN4297 four coach pack Deutsche Bundesbahn in turquoise and cream livery with Union flag/ Royal Corps of Transport markings, very good to excellent, box good to excellent. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Hornby China OO Gauge Flying Scotsman USA Tour 1969 Limited Edition Train Pack**, boxed, R2953 train pack includes Class A3 Steam Locomotive 4472 Flying Scotsman, with double tender in LNER green livery and Pullman Observation Car in chocolate and cream livery, with certificate 0699/2000, very good to excellent, box very good. **Sold for £180, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Hornby China OO Gauge Flying Scotsman Train Set**, boxed R1019 set, includes LNER Class A1 Flying Scotsman 4472 in green livery, three LNER teak coaches, track, controller minus track mat, good to excellent, box good. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Graham Farish by Bachmann N Gauge BR Blue Two Car DMU**, cased with card sleeve 371-878 Class 108 in blue livery, good to excellent, cases good to excellent. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Hornby OO Gauge Live Steam 'Mallard' Locomotive and Tender**, appears unused, with controller and accessories, in original box, very good to excellent, lacks CD Operators Manual, box good to very good. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Hornby China OO Gauge Coronation Scot Limited Edition Train Pack**, boxed R3092 train pack includes Princess Coronation Class stream line steam locomotive 6220 and rake of three coaches all in LNER blue/silver livery, with certificate 0470/2000, very good to excellent, box good to very good. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Hornby OO Gauge Western Pullman Train Set**, boxed, R1048 set, includes Castle class steam locomotive Cadbury Castle 7028 in BR green, four Pullman coaches, track, controller, trackmat and accessories, appears complete and unused but unchecked, very good to excellent, box fair to good. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Graham Farish by Bachmann N Gauge GB Railfreight Diesel Locomotive**, cased with card sleeve, 371-377 Class 66 in blue/ yellow GBRF livery, good to excellent, case good to excellent. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Hornby OO Gauge Limited Edition Silver Jubilee Collection Quicksilver**, boxed R3307 Class A4 streamline locomotive 2510 Quicksilver in silver LNER livery, good to excellent, box good to very good. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Hornby China OO Gauge Southern Railway 2-BIL DMU**, boxed two car DMU 2114 in SR olive green, very good to excellent, box very good to excellent. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Hornby OO Gauge Northern Belle Train Set**, boxed, R1065 set, includes Princess Coronation class steam locomotive, Duchess of Sutherland in LMS crimson, three Northern Belle Pullman coaches, track, controller, trackmat and accessories, appears complete and unused but unchecked, very good to excellent, box good (faded on one end). **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, October.**



▲ **Dapol N Gauge Steam Locomotive and Tender**, cased with card sleeve, ND-095G Britannia Pacific 70022 Tornado in BR green, very good to excellent, case very good to excellent. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby China OO Gauge Flying Scotsman Train Set**, boxed R1039 set, includes LNER Class A1 Flying Scotsman 4472 in green livery, four LNER teak coaches, track, controller, trackmat and accessories, appears complete and unused but unchecked, good to excellent, box good (faded on one end). **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby China OO Gauge Permanent Way Train Set**, boxed, R1029 set, includes Class N2 tank locomotive in BR black, brake down crane, vent van, brake coach, track, trackmat and accessories, appears complete and unused but unchecked, very good to excellent, box very good. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby China OO Gauge Steam Locomotive and Tender**, boxed, R2267 Merchant Navy Class 35025 Brocklebank line in BR green livery, very good to excellent, box good to very good faded on one side. **Sold for £45, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Bachmann OO Gauge Limited Edition Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway Steam Locomotive with Tender**, wooden cased, 20-2012 Class 7F No 88 in SDJR blue livery with certificate 0024/1250, very good to excellent, case very good to excellent. **Sold for £120, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Bachmann OO Gauge Midland Pullman Six Car DMU**, boxed, 31-255DC six car set in Nanking Blue livery, DCC untested, very good to excellent, box very good. **Sold for £200, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Bachmann OO Gauge Ransomes and Rapier Breakdown Crane**, boxed 38-800 Ransomes & Rapier 45 ton steam crane 1561 in SR grey, very good to excellent, box very good to excellent. **Sold for £130, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Bachmann OO Gauge Digital Steam Freight Starter Set**, boxed 30-040 set, includes two tank locomotives, Stuart No 49 in blue livery, Greg No 31 in maroon, three goods wagons, controller and track, appears complete but unchecked, very good to excellent, box very good. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Bachmann OO Gauge Digital Diesel Freight Set**, boxed 30-045 set, includes class 25 BR diesel locomotive D5233 in green livery, five goods wagons, controller and track, appears complete but unchecked, very good to excellent, box very good. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby-Dublo OO Gauge 3-Rail 2245 BR blue 3,300 HP Electric Locomotive E3002** converted for 3-Rail operation, in a LT25 box, good, small chip to plastic on one buffer beam, damage on one bottom edge above motor bogie, window surrounds painted. **Sold for £180, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby-Dublo OO Gauge 3-Rail 3234 BR two tone green D9001 'St Paddy' Diesel Locomotive**, with instructions, in original box, good, box fair, complete, tape to lid, repairs to corners. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby-Dublo OO Gauge 3-Rail 3234 BR two tone green D9001 'St Paddy' Diesel Locomotive**, with instructions and G'tee Slip, in original box, fair to good, box fair, complete, tape to lid, repairs to corners. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby-Dublo OO Gauge 3-Rail 3231 BR green 0-6-0 Diesel Shunter D3763**, with instructions, amended instruction slip, tested tag and oil capsule (used) and two yellow packing rings, in original blue and white striped picture box, very good to excellent, box good to very good. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby-Dublo OO Gauge 3-Rail 3235 BR green West Country Class 34042 'Dorchester' Locomotive and Tender**, in original blue striped picture box, very good to excellent, box fair, tape tears on top and side of lid. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby-Dublo OO Gauge 3-Rail SR 0-6-2T 2594 Malachite green Tank Engine**, in an incorrect LMS Plain blue box, fair, some scuffing to decals and fatigue to chimney and around smoke box. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby-Dublo OO Gauge 3-Rail 5235 BR green 24042 'Dorchester'**, professionally converted to 2-Rail probably by Beattie's in 1960's, including Instructions dated 2/61, mauve Guarantee slip dated 12/61, Oil Capsule (wrapped in tissue) and two packing rings, in original box with a small Beatties label on top of lid and a contemporary yellow piece of paper with 2 Rail written on it across the box, excellent, lightly run, box good to very good. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby-Dublo OO Gauge 2-Rail Export 2324 BR black Class 8F 48073 2-8-0 Locomotive and Tender**, including mauve Guarantee Slip stamped 10/61, Amended instruction slip dated 6/61, tested tag and three packing rings, in original plain red export box with Hornby-Dublo label on lid and detail on yellow label at one end, both with local currency price in pencil, excellent, lightly used, box good to very good. **Sold for £260, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Hornby-Dublo OO Gauge 2-Rail 2233 BR green Co-Bo D5702 Diesel Electric Locomotive**, including tested tag, two packing rings and two pieces of protective card for loco body, in original red striped picture box, excellent, possibly test run only/very lightly run, box good to very good, small mark on label. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ **Graham Farish by Bachmann N Gauge BR Green Two Car DMU**, cased with card sleeve, 371-880 Class 108 two car DMU in green livery, good to excellent, cases good to very good. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, October.**



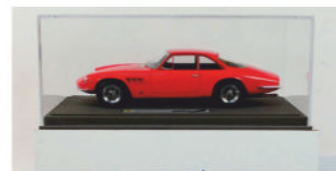
♣ A boxed Corgi Major Diecast Model #1152 Mack Truck, with Gloster Saro Articulated Petrol Tanker, 'Esso' slight crushing/warp/dicolour/scuffing to box. Some sun bleaching to the tanker. **Sold for £20, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ An unboxed Franklin Mint 1/32 scale 1965 Seagrave Fire Engine. The model comes with plinth, is missing its certificate and tag, and appears to be in fair plus - good display dusty condition which would be enhanced with cleaning, with a broken handle on one side. The model is unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £55, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A boxed Limited Edition Promod PR304 Karrier Gamecock Flatbed NCB & Coal Sack Load. The model appears to be in excellent condition with some slight bending to one of the mirrors, and is numbered 43 of a limited run of 150. Plain brown box bears the Promod label appears very good. Model is unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £28, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A limited edition BBR Models 1/18 scale resin model 1964 Ferrari 500 Superfast in classic red, number 23 of only 159 produced # BBR1841A. The car appears in mint condition on a display plinth with numbered certificate. The box is very good, the inner packing piece has split in two. **Sold for £200, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A boxed 1/72 scale AA36101 Catalina Mk.IIA 209 Sqn, Pembroke Dock, October 1941 from Corgi AA 'World War II Early War' series. The model appears to be in very good but very dusty condition and comes with stand and accessories and is unchecked for completeness. The model is housed in a very good polystyrene inner, and presented in a good but faded lift off lid box with some general storage wear. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A boxed 1/18 scale Universal Hobbies #4427 Land Rover Series II Fire Tender 'Pompier Ville De Lyon'. The model appears to be in mint condition housed in a poor dusty window box with loose cellophane window and storage imperfections. The model is unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A boxed 1/18 scale Minichamps #150 137000 Morris Minor in green. The model appears to be in mint condition, presented within a fair plus dusty window box with some slight fading to front. Model is unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ An unopened Classic TV series Batmobile in 1/18 scale with diecast Batman and Robin figures by Jada. It is still in its factory shrink wrap so appears Mint. **Sold for £75, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A boxed 1/72 scale Corgi AA33401 Westland Sea King HAS.2 825 Sqn RN Falklands Campaign 20th Anniversary 1982-2002. The model appears to be in mint condition with accessories and stand, and is housed in a good - very good overall box with some general wear. Model is unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A boxed diecast Dragon Wings 'Warbird' series #50071 1/72 scale Boeing F-15C Eagle 58th FS 'Gorillas' 33rd FW USAF. The model appears mint with accessories and stand, and is housed in an very good plus presentation box. The model is unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A boxed 1/18 scale Minichamps #150 137001 Morris Minor 'Million' in lilac. Appears to have a broken boot lid bracket, otherwise appears be in excellent condition, presented within a fair plus dusty window box with some storage related marks and slight fading to front. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A boxed Ertle Toy State Goldfinger Aston Martin DB5 in 1/18 scale # 33745. The car appears mint in a fair box with some storage wear. Also an unboxed 1/14 scale model with light and sound. It appears in very good untested condition. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ Dinky Toys Hawker Harrier and Commando Jeep, #722 Harker Harrier, item appears in excellent condition, slightly bent plastic nose due to box shrinkage. Plastic is sunbleached and box is mishapen. #612 Commando Jeep, Item appears in excellent condition with good box, flap missing. **Sold for £25, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A boxed diecast Dragon Wings 'Warbird' series #50082 1/72 scale F/A-18F Super Hornet VFA-102 'Diamondbacks'. The model appears mint with accessories and stand, and is housed in an very good plus presentation box. The model is unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A limited edition BBR Models 1/18 scale resin model 1964 Ferrari 500 Superfast in light metallic blue, number 45 of only 150 produced # BBR1821. One door handle has become detached and is in a bag to be refitted, it appears undamaged. The car appears otherwise mint on a display plinth in a very good box with numbered certificate. **Sold for £180, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ A limited edition handbuilt Pathfinder Models 1/43 scale white metal model Rover P5 3.5 Litre Coupe. This is number 215 of only 300 made for Minor Motorcars BV in Amsterdam. The model appears mint and comes in its original box with numbered certificate. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, October.**

DIECAST RESULTS



▲ Minichamps 1/6 scale model Ducati 996, John Reynolds, BSB 2001 # 062 011203, appears mint in box. **Sold for £100, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ Minichamps 1/6 scale model Ducati 996, undecorated Race version # 062 011200, appears mint in box. **Sold for £80, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ Autoart 1/18 scale 1969 MGB GT Coupe MkII in British Racing Green # 76602. The model appears in near mint condition in a very good box. **Sold for £80, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ Franklin Mint 1947 Bentley MkVI with Franay Coachwork in 1/24 scale. The car appears in very good condition but the radiator mascot and the right rear tail light are missing. The car comes in its original polystyrene packaging with certificate but no outer box. **Sold for £20, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ Sun Star 1/12 scale Sun Star 1960 Morris Minor 1000 Traveller, in white, appears to be in mint condition housed in excellent internal polystyrene box, and comes with certificate numbering the model 188 of 2000. Box appears very good with some fading to one side and minor storage wear. **Sold for £100, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ Sun Star 1/12 scale Sun Star 1956 Morris Minor 1000 Saloon, in black, appears to be in mint condition housed in excellent internal polystyrene box, and comes with certificate numbering the model 411 of 4000. Box appears very good with some fading to one side and minor storage wear. **Sold for £100, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ A boxed Victory Industries 1/18 scale Morris Minor 1000 Saloon. The electric plastic bodied model in red with cream interior has some slight distortion to roof plus a couple of small cracks, otherwise appears to be in good slightly dusty condition. Plastic battery compartment appears to be in good and clean condition. The model is housed within a fair plus box missing flaps at one end and has some age and storage related wear. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ A boxed 1/18 scale Minichamps #150 137090 Morris Minor Police Car. The model appears to be in mint condition, presented within a good dusty window box with some wear and slight fading to front. Model is unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ A boxed 1/18 scale Minichamps #150 137031 Morris Minor Convertible. The model in almond green appears to be in mint condition, presented within a very good dusty window box with some storage related wear. Model is unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £55, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ A boxed 1/18 scale Minichamps #150 137030 Morris Minor Convertible. The model in blue appears to be in mint condition, presented within a Good dusty window box with some storage related wear. Model is unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ Corgi 211M Studebaker Golden Hawk, white body, gold rear side flashes, flat spun hubs and silver trim, mechanical motor. Good plus, still a lovely bright example, in a Good Plus blue carded picture box with Collectors' Club folded leaflet. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October.**



▲ Corgi 211S Studebaker Golden Hawk, gold body, red interior, silver trim, spun hubs, factory error without rear white side flashes. Near mint in an Excellent blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, October.**



▲ Corgi 213S Jaguar 2.4 litre Fire Service car, red body, lemon interior, silver trim, spun hubs, plastic aerial, good plus to excellent (although does have some small chips on edges) in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box with 213S label on one end flap. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October.**



▲ Corgi 215 Ford Thunderbird open sports car, white body with silver and blue interior, silver trim with red rear taillights, flat spun hubs. Excellent in an excellent plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, October.**



▲ Corgi 220 Chevrolet Impala, very pale lilac-blue, red interior, silver trim, flat spun hubs. Excellent plus in excellent blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October.**



▲ Corgi 221 Chevrolet Impala New York Taxi, yellow body, red interior, silver trim, roof box, plastic aerial, flat spun hubs. Excellent plus including blue and yellow carded picture box with collector's club folded leaflet. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, October.**



▲ Corgi 223 Chevrolet Impala State Patrol Car, black body with silver trim and side flashes, lemon interior, grey plastic aerial, flat spun hubs. Near mint in an excellent blue and yellow carded picture box with correct inner packing piece. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, October.**



▲ Corgi 262 Lincoln Continental Limousine, gold body with black roof, blue tinted windows, spun hubs, although overall condition is near mint does have loss of chrome to front and rear bumpers, presentation bubble pack is Excellent (some small grubby marks on base) inner carded tray is excellent also comes with film strip and correct instruction leaflet. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Corgi 262 Lincoln Continental Limousine**, blue body with tan roof, mid blue interior, chrome bumpers, spun hubs excellent plus lovely bright model that displays well in good plus presentation bubble pack, inner card is excellent also comes with film strip and correct folded instruction leaflet. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Corgi 263 Marlin Rambler Fastback**, red, black roof, ivory interior, chrome bumpers, cast hubs, grey plastic tow hook, near mint in mint blue and yellow carded picture box, superb example. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 454 Trojan Van Drink Cydrax**, mid-green body and rigid hubs with smooth hubs, silver trim. Near mint in a good plus yellow and red carded box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 237 Mercedes Racing Car**, white body, red interior and rigid hubs with smooth tyres, light blue figure driver, silver trim. Excellent plus (does have a small stain mark) in a good yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £50, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 239 Vanwall Racing Car**, green body with silver trim, black front vent, figure driver, mid-green rigid hubs with treaded tyres, racing No.35. Excellent to near mint in a good yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 258 Ford Fairlane Police car**, black body, white door panels, off white interior, red solid roof light, grey plastic aerial, silver trim, spun hubs. Excellent plus in a good plus yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 266 Plymouth Plaza Canadian Taxi**, yellow with red roof, off white interior, silver trim, chrome spun hubs with white tyres, "Taxi" roof box. Excellent plus in a good to good plus yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 278 Vauxhall Ambulance**, white body, green interior with figure and patient on stretcher, silver trim, solid blue roof light, spun hubs, red cross decals to doors. Near mint superb example in a Excellent yellow and red carded picture box (does have pen price mark on one side). **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 132 Ford 40-RV Racing Car**, silver body, red including interior, chrome mirrors, cast wire wheels. Good plus still a bright example in a good plus rigid perspex case. **Sold for £35, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 188 Jensen FF**, yellow body, black interior, cast hubs. Excellent plus in a excellent rigid perspex case. **Sold for £50, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 294 Police Vehicles Gift Set**, to include (1) Mini, Range Rover and Ford Transit "Accident Unit". Conditions are generally good plus to excellent (do require very slight attention in cleaning) in a fair to good (complete) carded picture box, inner pictorial carded tray is good plus with inner packing pieces. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 295 Atlas Auto Bus**, rare colour variation finished in all blue, red interior, silver trim, spun hubs. Good plus in a good plain yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 954 Vega Major Luxury coach**, white body, purple side flashes, blue interior, black base, silver trim. Good plus to excellent in a good to good plus yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £50, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 961 Vega Major Luxury coach**, "PTT" deep yellow body, red interior and side flashes, cream roof, silver trim, black base, cast hubs. Excellent (a couple of minor chips on front wheel arches) in a good plus correct carded picture box. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 308 Leyland 384 Tractor**, metallic red body, white including hubs (plastic front) and chimney stack, silver trim, figure driver and metal tow hook. Near mint (couple of minor marks on hubs) in a good plus displays well yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 27AK Farm Tractor & Hay Rake Set**, includes Massey Harris tractor red, yellow metal wheels, light tan figure driver and Hay Rake yellow and red. Conditions are generally good plus in a good (slightly grubby) blue and white striped lift off lid picture box. **Sold for £50, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **Dinky 399 Farm Gift Set**, includes Massey Ferguson Tractor, red body, yellow hubs, (plastic front), bright yellow chimney stack, figure driver and metal tow hook. Open back trailer - red, light grey, chrome hubs. Conditions are generally excellent to near mint in good presentation yellow and red window box with detailed picture on rear, (does have some small tears and crushing to cellophane). **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, October.**



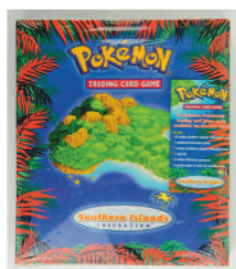
♦ **Dinky 398 Farm Gift Set**, includes Massey Ferguson Tractor, red body, yellow hubs (plastic front), black chimney stack, figure driver, tow hook. Harvest Trailer with detachable raves, yellow plastic hubs. Manure spreader red with yellow plastic hubs. Hay rake yellow and red. Roller yellow and red. Conditions are generally good plus to near mint contained in a good plus presentation carded display box. **Sold for £540, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♦ **French Dinky 24D Plymouth Bulverde**, grey with burnt orange roof and side flashes, silver trim, chrome convex hubs with white tyres. Excellent plus in a good (slightly grubby) yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ **Pokemon trading card game sealed Southern Islands Collection.** This lot contains a sealed Southern Islands Collection released in 2000. It contains the 18 promo cards and three sealed packs. While the packs are random they're usually the first three Neo series packs. **Sold for £1300, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon trading card game sealed Southern Islands Collection.** This lot contains a sealed Southern Islands Collection released in 2000. It contains the 18 promo cards and three sealed packs, while the packs are random they're usually the first three Neo series packs. **Sold for £1400, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Mega Charizard Y Poncho-Wearing Pikachu 208/XY-P graded PSA 10.** This card was released in 2016 in the Japanese Mega Charizard Y Poncho-wearing Pikachu

Special Box. As a Japanese exclusive release and merging two of the most popular characters in Pokémon this has become one of the most desirable modern cards in Pokémon in recent times. **Sold for £1900, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Rayquaza Poncho-wearing Pikachu 230/XY-P Graded PSA 9.** This card was released as part of the Rayquaza Poncho-wearing Pikachu Special Box in Japan

in 2016. As a Japanese exclusive release and merging two of the most popular characters in Pokémon this has become one of the most desirable modern cards in Pokémon in recent times. **Sold for £700, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Pokemon E-Series Box Topper Complete Set 1 to 12.** A rare opportunity to own a complete E-Series Box Topper Set all 12 cards are included with the Crystal Charizard the stand out piece from this lot. Cards are in near mint condition apart from Feraligatr which is in excellent condition. **Sold for £950, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Pokemon Team Rocket Unlimited Booster,** box sealed. This was the fifth expansion set for the card game, and was released in the year 2000. The set includes Dark Raichu numbered 83/82 which made this set the first to include a secret rare card. The set was made up of 83 total cards, including the widely popular Dark Charizard! This box includes 36 packs. Box is in overall good condition, corners are crisp and colours vibrant but does have some minor damage. Has a dent on the top back edge and a crease on the right hand side. Seal has small tear in bottom. **Sold for £4800, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Pokemon Crossing the Ruins Japanese sealed booster box.** This is the Japanese Version of the English Neo Discovery Set and was released in the year 2000. This is one of the rarer vintage booster boxes to find still sealed. A chance to own a piece of Pokémon history! The box contains 60 packs. The box is in excellent condition with the colours still vibrant. There is a small dent in the top of the box and a small split in the seal on the top right hand side. **Sold for £8000, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Sealed Tempest Gift Box.** This lot contains a sealed Tempest Gift Box released early 2000, the gift box contains a unique 60 card tempest theme deck which includes a holo Zapdos from the Fossil expansion, three randomised booster packs. Typically this will include a Base Set, Jungle and Fossil booster pack and they will all be long crimp packs. It also includes a CD-Rom that teaches you how to play the game, a playmat, a unique metal Pikachu coin, damage counters, rules on how to play and a special embodied bag for carry your cards or dice. The box is in fantastic condition with intact seal, sharp corners and edges. **Sold for £550, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon CD Japanese Promo,** factory sealed from 1998 contains cards including Charizard Holo, Blastoise Holo, Venusaur Holo, Porygon holo, Snorlax holo, Legendary Glossy Mew, Legendary Glossy Mewtwo, Legendary Glossy Arkenine, English shadowless Pikachu and other cards. **Sold for £800, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Legendary Collection Turmoil Theme Deck,** sealed. This is one of the rarer vintage Pokémon theme decks to find sealed and is a fantastic example. It features Raichu on the front and the box has the same reverse holofoil pattern as on the reverse holo cards for this set. The seal is fully in tact, corners are crisp, overall the box is in near mint condition. **Sold for £400, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Pikachu World Collection binder,** sealed. Has original price stickers on front of binder. **Sold for £120, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Base Set 2 Player starter set,** sealed. This lot contains the very first 2-player starter deck released in 1999.

The item is still factory sealed and includes within a 1st edition Machop Holo. Box is in excellent condition, seal is intact, sharp corners. There is a dent on the top front side of the box. **Sold for £110, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Neo Destiny 1st Edition Dark Feraligatr Holo 5/105,** graded Beckett Mint 9. **Sold for £120, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Neo Destiny 1st Edition Dark Gengar Holo 6/105,** graded Beckett 8.5. **Sold for £180, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Sun & Moon Ultra Prism Lillie 151/156 Full Art** graded PSA 10. One of the most popular full art trainers of today. **Sold for £700, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ **Pokemon TCG Shining Gyarados secret rare 65/64 from Neo Revelation,** graded PSA 8. **Sold for £240, Ewbanks, October.**



♣ An early German bear circa 1912, black button eyes, 45cm, old repair to paws, good mohair. **Sold for £120, Gorringes, October.**



♣ A Farnell bear circa 1912, black button eyes, 25cm, in very good condition. **Sold for £220, Gorringes, October.**



♣ A large Polar bear circa 1950s, possibly Chiltern, very good condition. **Sold for £30, Gorringes, October.**



♣ An early cinnamon Steiff circa 1907, with underscored button, 33cm, good thick mohair, slight fading on front. **Sold for £1400, Gorringes, October.**



♣ A Farnell bear circa 1920, 25cm, in good condition, paw pads replaced. **Sold for £200, Gorringes, October.**



♣ A Farnell bear circa 1912, 33cm, bear paw pads restored, hair loss to stomach. **Sold for £130, Gorringes, October.**



♣ A large 1930s Chiltern bear, 53cm, with replaced nose stitching, some hair loss generally. **Sold for £65, Gorringes, October.**



♣ Bear Bits Bart artist designed bear, designed by Jean and Bill Ashburner, 5 of 5, beige mohair, fully jointed, would benefit from cleaning, some moth damage, with swing label certificate, fair to good, 12"/30cm. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ An early German bear circa 1920, with set in ears, black button eyes, 35cm, replaced paw pads, otherwise good condition. **Sold for £170, Gorringes, October.**



♣ An early Steiff circa 1908, 40cm, no button, in very good condition, replaced paw pads. **Sold for £1600, Gorringes, October.**



♣ A 1930s Merrythought bear, with label, 44cm, old repair to foot, some hair loss. **Sold for £50, Gorringes, October.**



♣ Bear Bits Barney artist designed bear, designed by Jean and Bill Ashburner, 2 of 6, brown mohair, fully jointed, red collar and name tag, would benefit from cleaning, some moth damage, complete with swing label certificate, fair to good, 12"/30cm. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, October.**



♣ An early bear, possibly American circa 1913, 40cm, in good condition, old repairs to paws. **Sold for £60, Gorringes, October.**



♣ A Farnell bear circa 1914, 35cm, in very good condition, no restoration. **Sold for £380, Gorringes, October.**



♣ A Terrys bear circa 1930, all original, excellent condition. **Sold for £80, Gorringes, October.**



♣ A Steiff bear dating from 1908, no button, original eyes, damaged condition. **Sold for £120, Gorringes, October.**



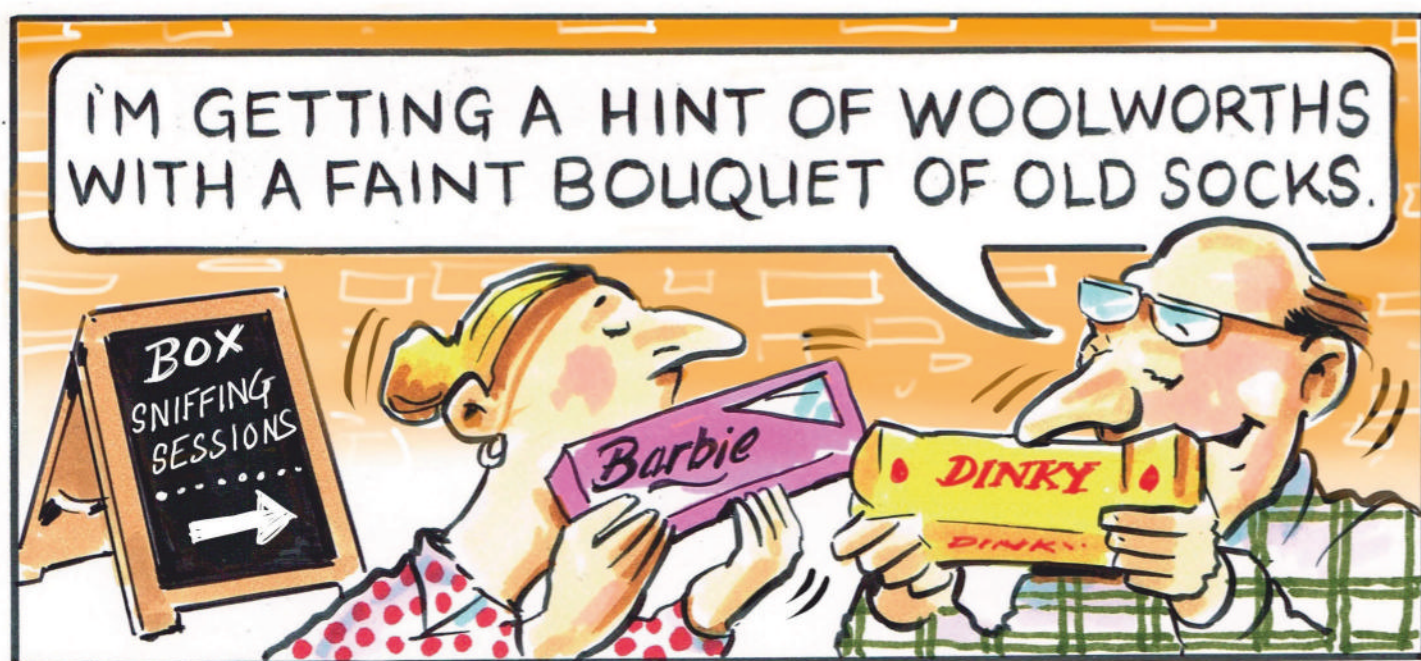
♣ A large Farnell circa 1920, 55cm, in good condition with no restoration, one tiny hair loss at bottom of tummy. **Sold for £550, Gorringes, October.**



♣ A golden plush bear, worn, 60cm. **Sold for £15, Gorringes, October.**



♣ Bear Bits Tamoska artist designed bear, designed by Jean and Bill Ashburner, limited edition 1 of 8, off-white mohair with grey backing, fully jointed, would benefit from cleaning, some moth damage, complete with swing label certificate, excellent plus, 13"/33cm. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, October.**



Toy Stories

The sweet smell of...toys. With **Ed Karswell**.

In a recent discussion with a colleague, I learned that our sense of smell is one of the most powerful stimuli for evoking memory in the brain. It's a fascinating area of research that leaves us with more questions than answers. So, it comes as a bit of a surprise that the sense of smell has largely been downplayed as a factor for us in hunting out our childhood playthings. Personally, I can always remember the smell of the brand-new Action Man coming out of its box. It was a heady mix of rubber, glue and crisp new clothes. That new smell was a big part of the ritual, albeit one that would quickly fade once the dog had carried it around the garden a few times.

New *Star Wars* figures had a similar bouquet. Heat sealed onto their backing cards in their shiny bubbles, it was the pungent hit of vinyl that came forth once cracking them open that excited. Some toys had almost unique aromas. With Matchbox cars, their boxes had a quite earthy smell that emanated from the pulp board they were made from. Going

back to action figures, there was a series of universal Monster dolls made by Azrak Hamway back in the 1970s. They were delightfully lurid, cheap and most pungent once released from their backing cards. Oh yes, how I wish I had left a few of them in place now... but that's another story.

Most vintage toys today come with their own baggage of smells depending on the life they've led. I laugh when I see adverts proclaiming "from a smoke and pet free home". I'm not sure where people think these toys have been for the last 50 or so years before they ended up in their vacuum-packed bubble. No, the passage of time can wreak fascinating havoc on pretty much all collectables. Clockwork toys take on a smell reminiscent of a steam rally, complete with congealed oil, dust and rust. If you've been to one, then you'll know what I mean. Battery toys give off warning whiffs. If something has leaked it will have an earthy ammonia nose to it, this along with a scorched motor will say "fit for static display only".

Loft finds have a particular aroma too. I once purchased a group of pre-War toys that had spent over 70 years in a loft. The results of cold, dust and intense heat had given them a bouquet not unlike smoked meats. They hadn't suffered unduly but that smell was unmistakable. Paper, of course, has its own mystique when it comes to scent. The smell when opening a vintage children's annual is unmistakable and should have its own name in the dictionary. Comics have a very distinct aroma; you can even differentiate between them. For example, the *Eagle* comics' superior glossy paper has a very different smell compared to say, *The Dandy* comics' rough stock (no offence intended). Likewise vintage jigsaws, board games and card games can also be included in this. I remember the smell of fresh Topps *Star Wars* trading cards as they came out of the pack; much of it was to do with the questionable gum included inside it but really it was the thick laminate coating on the cards that really did it.

One aroma nobody wants near

vintage items is the smell of damp. You recognise it immediately and it's usually accompanied by visual damage too. Soft toys, boxes, diecast, tinsplate and even plastics can be ruined by damp and the odour it gives off can be hard to remedy. Sometimes you would rather not know where that smell came from!

I'm sure everyone will have their own memories and if not, this will be one of the stranger columns you've delved into. The thing is though, like most things, smells lose their potency through age and exposure. Unless that Action Man has been in a hermetically sealed box for most of its life then the new toy aroma would have dissipated to a greater extent. It still doesn't stop us chasing those memories and when we occasionally come across something that really is something of a time warp, we go right back there and it's irresistible. After all, I didn't open most of the Action Man display boxes in Woolworths just to forget about it 50 years later, did I? **CG**



The Bayko Collectors Club

Ann Evans gets out and about to visit model and collectors clubs up and down the country.

Photos by Bayko Collectors' Club and Rob Tysall

If you are a child of the 1940s, 50s and 60s you may have been lucky enough to have played with the new construction toy sets of the day: Bayko - whose building bricks and parts were made from the first fully synthetic plastic, known as Bakelite. The first sets in the 1930s were called Bayko Light, a play on the work Bakelite.

Bakelite was invented in 1907 by Belgian chemist and entrepreneur, Leo Hendrik Baekeland (1863-1944) and patented by him in 1909. It soon found many uses including billiard balls, radios, telephones, ornaments and eventually in 1933, as a new construction toy. Bayko Light Construction Sets were the brainchild of English engineer, and former WWI Royal Navy wireless operator, Charles Bird Plimpton (1894-1948).

These new construction

sets came about when Charles Plimpton was convalescing from tuberculosis in a sanatorium. Whilst there it's believed that he became aware of a Dutch construction toy 'Mobaco' and his entrepreneurial mind began to consider producing construction sets made from the new popular synthetic plastic, Bakelite.

After leaving the sanatorium, he began to put his ideas into action, setting up Plimpton Engineering at 15 Gibraltar Row, Liverpool, and building a friendly relationship with the Bakelite company. He successfully applied for a patent and began production of his construction sets initially from his home kitchen. By the end of 1934, Bayko Light Construction Sets, in approximately 1/43 scale (O gauge) with brown and cream bricks, were in full production and released just in time for Christmas.

Though mainly aimed at buildings, with some based on the local architecture of the Wirral, a wide range of different structures were described in the early manuals, such as beds, chairs, entire bungalows and houses, verandas, shops, garage and, sports pavilions. In fact, Bayko Light was advertised as saying: "Limited only by the child's imagination." Although the parent's pocket was another factor, as you could keep buying sets and spare parts to increase your stock of Bayko to build bigger and more elaborate buildings. Set number 6 for example, the deluxe set, would have cost around a guinea - 21 shillings in old money, which back in those days would have been a week's wages for some.

Production continued to evolve with the range of sets and parts expanding and changing, similarly with

ABOVE LEFT

Arkitek and tube trains at LT Museum Acton Depot 2.

ABOVE RIGHT

Little Beeching High Street.

the colour schemes. Then, as with most toys during WWII, production was suspended from 1942 - 1945 for the war effort, re-emerging with a new series of construction sets from around 1946.

The period 1949 to 1959 is regarded as Bayko's peak period. Charles Plimpton died in 1948 and the company continued independently for another 10 years under the control of his widow, Margaret. Sales were high during this term, but there was no further innovation and no new parts after 1951. In 1959 Margaret sold the company to Meccano Ltd.

However, Meccano was taken over in 1964 by Lines Brothers. Their attempts at creating a construction toy of their own (Cliko)

in the same year, meant there was no place for the more old fashioned Bayko. Production ceased, much to the disappointment of many who had grown up with these once popular construction sets. Another major factor in Bayko's demise was the growing popularity of LEGO. Although often regarded as more realistic, Bayko modelling could not compete with the all-embracing LEGO.

COLLECTING FANS

Amongst those Bayko fans determined to keep Bayko alive, were a handful of people who had always appreciated these building sets. A club was set up - the exact date is lost in the mists of time, but it's known to be



ABOVE
The crew at Bayko Collectors Club.



ABOVE
Surbiton Station and Hornby Clockwork.



ABOVE
Various building toys.



ABOVE
Bayko mansions.



ABOVE
Arkitek and tube trains at LT Museum Acton Depot 1.

before 1999 when the first newsletter was issued. The Bayko Collectors' Club was founded for members to exchange ideas and display their creations in Bayko as well as other architectural building toys.

Chris Reeve is regarded as a founder since the first meetings were held at his house in Lane End (near High Wycombe). The club still meets to this day in Lane End Village Hall four times a year, although no members now live in the village.

The meetings are held on a Sunday and last all day – often with lunch provided. These events provide an opportunity for members to meet up, display models, sets and other acquisitions. In September each year the club holds a 'members only' weekend convention, where more elaborate displays can be set up over the two days.

The Bayko Collectors' Club has never been very large - around 150 members at the most, thinly spread across the UK and abroad with members in Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and several European

countries.

Nowadays, with the interest in Bayko mainly being with the children of the 1950s and earlier, membership has dwindled to just under 100. The club exhibits at various shows around the country, often with other clubs with complimentary interests such as Hornby, Meccano, LEGO and other railway and modelling enthusiasts.

So far this year alone, its members have represented their club at the H.R.C.A. Spring Event in Swindon; the Train Collectors' Summer Show at the BMM Gaydon; Naphill Brick and Model Show, High Wycombe, with more events scheduled through autumn.

Bayko was unusual in the early days for being marketed for girls as well as boys, which contrasted with Meccano, Hornby Trains etc., which were blatantly 'boys toys'. Today the club has around 10% female membership, with some couples equally involved.

The majority of members remember playing with Bayko as children, but not

all. Some members have an interest in architecture and model buildings from real life; or they create buildings for model railway layouts or fantasy dioramas. While some members don't build models at all; rather they enjoy collecting rare sets and parts, often with unusual colour variations.

Collectors Gazette spoke to Chris Boutal, the Membership Secretary, and asked him what exactly is the magic of Bayko for its members?

"There are nearly as many reasons for joining the club as there are members," said Chris. "For many it revives memories of a favourite toy from childhood. For others it is a case of tracking down rare sets and parts at toy fairs and on-line auctions. Some collect only Bayko, whereas others have huge collections of many different kinds of building toy – some going back to the 19th century. And for them it's the history of the toys, inventors and manufacturers that is interesting.

Chris continued,

"Bayko was manufactured exclusively in Liverpool, and in 2014, Bayko's 80th anniversary was celebrated in style, by invitation from the Museum of Liverpool to stage a 72 table display there. One star exhibit by member Robert Palmer was of the museum building itself. The museum also has two Bayko models on permanent display created by the late Leo Janssen, a Belgian enthusiast who created models of the Empire State Building (16 feet tall) and the former terminal building at Liverpool Speke (now John Lennon) Airport.

"For Bayko's 90th anniversary in 2024 the current plan is to put together a display of Bayko and its history at each exhibition the club attends.

This approach will give a broader coverage around the country than a single mega-event, as well as being more manageable by the members.

The Bayko Collector's Club send their Newsletter out every quarter (in print or PDF) which is compiled and edited by Gary Birch. This is an excellent read, packed full of special features, show reports, articles on specific Bayko sets and other building toys, and detailed articles on the constructing of certain buildings, as well as railways and dioramas. There's also news in general of interest to members; forthcoming events and members' own news and achievements, which all makes for fascinating reading. **CG**

Further details...

The Bayko Collectors' Club welcomes new members. Annual subscription is only £20. If you have happy memories of Bayko building sets, why not get in touch with the Collectors' Club, they will be pleased to hear from you. For more details, visit: www.baykocollectorsclub.co.uk/

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Obsolete

Our monthly gaze into the weird but wonderful world of collector/dealer **Obsolete Oz**. Buying and selling since the 1970s, Oz has developed a great knack for unearthing some amazing finds from flea markets, antique fairs, car boot sales, rubbish skips and even the local tip.

Hi folks! Despite the winter now thrusting it's way towards us at a rapid pace I still managed to pull in a couple of very good away days recently. Trips to the sun soaked Malvern flea market followed by a final trip of the year to York racecourse for the always excellent Saturday car boot sale. These are both big events with plenty of stalls to go at and I wasn't disappointed with a host of nice little finds being bagged at both venues.

The sun had barely risen in York when I dropped on a Matchbox classic which sent my mind racing back towards the early 1970s. It was a Superfast SF-1 Speed Set, fully complete and in a nice clean box which the seller informed me was freshly removed from an attic during a recent house clearance. The gravity powered Speed Set dates from 1969 and is hard to find in good condition these days. Other accessories in the range were to follow including daredevil leaps, boosters and finishing gates. I was more than happy to hand over the five pounds he was asking for it. At the same venue another nice purchase were a couple of Dinky Supertoy Fodens, which seemed a snip for just a tenner the pair. I reckon the tyres alone should be worth that much. They might get restored or would make ideal bases for code 3 conversions? I would have a go myself but I already have a string of model making projects lined up - enough to last a lifetime!

Moving down to Malvern where a very frosty start soon gave way to glorious sunshine my first buy of the day turned out to be one of the best. Being a great

lover of old tins I was delighted to drop onto a lovely Sovereign Devon Treacle Toffee tin in stunning condition which is just the way I like them. Although named as Devon toffee these were actually made at Sovereign Mills in Lawton, Lancashire. This tin will be heading straight into my own collection which is why I had no hesitation handing over £45 quid for it. It's always great when you find a nice item to keep which really makes the long drive worthwhile.

Next up was another nice little find from the Matchbox stable in the shape of a splendid M-3 Switch a Track motorised game with a good box. Luckily the all important accessories box was also present inside containing the drive pins, stickers and the spiral joining clip. I can't be certain that all four cars found in the box are the originals but who knows? It even contains the original old guarantee which should have been sent to a company called Hammant & Morgan who were based in Watford. This figure of eight track could accommodate both regular wheel and Superfast models. The guy only wanted a tenner for it so it was a bit of a no brainer really.

Another fine find at this hugely popular event was a nice little group of four Dinky and Hornby diecast accessories which consisted of a Pratts oil bin, railway sign, petrol pump and pillar box for which I was more than happy to hand over fifteen quid for the lot.

On the selling front a really nice little Mrs Punch character glove puppet still in its original box found a buyer willing to hand over twenty pounds for her. This very delicate puppet had strange

movable eyes and looked to date back to the 1950s. It was made in New York by Peter Puppet Playthings of Long Island City and was one of a set of four.

A 1966 World Cup first day issue stamp attached to an envelope sold for a fiver to a football memorabilia collector who was going to frame it with a few other 1966 bits and bobs - it should look great when it's finished. I still have memories of that day back in July 1966. I could hear all the merriment inside the house as all the family sat around a telly with a very tiny screen but I was outside in the garden playing with my Dinky Toys as usual. I was only 10 years old at the time. The massive cheer at the end of the match made it clear that England were World Cup winners.

A selection of nine different old cigarette packets which had all been used to store cigarette cards sold for twenty quid. I remember my mother and father

smoking Park Drive ciggies but thankfully I never took to smoking at all.

A lovely old Tudor Rose plastic row crop tractor in red and green found a model tractor collector happy to hand over forty five pounds for it. I remember these toys being sold in Woolworths stores in the 1960s for a couple of shillings or so.

Last, but certainly not least, an *Observers Book of Commercial Vehicles* dating back to 1974 sold for eight pounds. It's a great reference book for lovers of old lorries, of which I am one. There's some amazing trucks featured in this book from those golden days when British firms built some of the finest commercials in the world.

Well that's about all for yet another month folks. Wrap up warm as winter takes a grip of us once again. Enjoy the forthcoming fairs and, as always, be lucky. **CG**



ABOVE
Oz bagged these four Dinky diecast accessories for the bargain price of fifteen pounds.

**ABOVE**

Dating from 1969 this Matchbox Superfast SF-1 Speed Set was a bargain buy for just a fiver.

LEFT

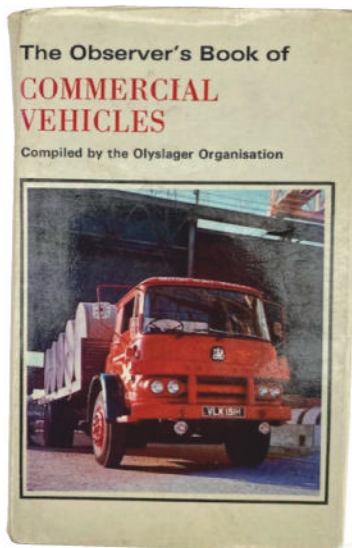
This first day cover stamp with ENGLAND winners printed on it sent got Oz reminiscing about that memorable match in July 1966.

**LEFT**

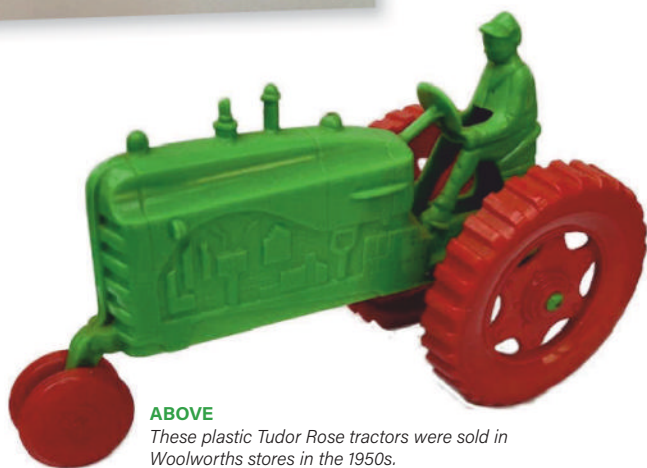
This Observers book dates from the days when Britain produced some of the finest trucks in the world.

BELOW

This lovely Mrs Punch glove puppet was made in the USA and is still in its delicate cardboard box.

**BELOW**

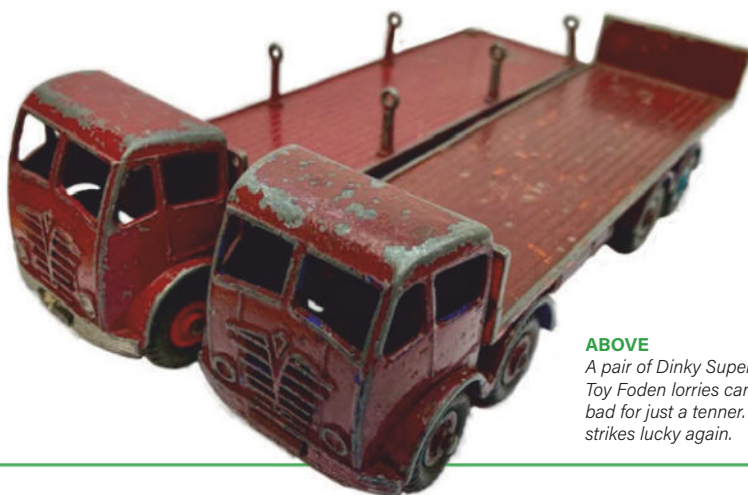
This Matchbox M-3 Switch a track game was another interesting find at the massive Malvern Fleamarket.

**ABOVE**

These plastic Tudor Rose tractors were sold in Woolworths stores in the 1950s.

**ABOVE**

These old empty cigarette packets were used to hold sets of cigarette cards.

**ABOVE**

A pair of Dinky Supertoy Toy Foden lorries can't be bad for just a tenner. Oz strikes lucky again.

**ABOVE**

This lovely Sovereign Toffee tin is in fabulous condition and will be added to Oz's own collection.



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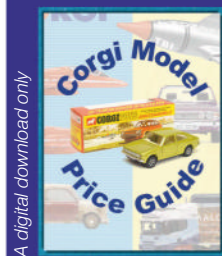
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19 NOVEMBER

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- **St. Ives**, J & J Webb, 01522 880383
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- **Walsall**, Transtar Promotions, 01922 643385

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- **Brentwood**, J & J Webb, 01522 880383
- **Exeter**, Bulldog Fairs, 07379 578083

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- **Garstang**, Kevin Wright, 07908 494097

2 DECEMBER

- **Maidstone**, Mike Spencer, 01622 298159

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- **Shepton Mallet**, Bulldog Fairs, 07379 578083
- **Kempton Park**, RM Toys, 023 92 262446 or 07957 823507
- **Spalding**, J & J Webb, 01522 880383

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- **Theydon Bois**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

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- **Newton Abbot**, Ray Heard Train & Toy Fairs, 01823 480097

- **Lincolnshire**, J & J Webb, 01522 880383

- **Gateshead**, Jim Corr, 07504 035955

- **Orpington**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012 or 07498 912091

- **Wimborne**, Steve Clements Toy Fairs, 01380 725322 or 07732 330305

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- **Herne Bay**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012 or 07498 912091

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- **Bowburn**, Bowburn Toy & Train Collectors Fair

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- **Ditton**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012 or 07498 912091
- **Llandudno**, Llandudno Toy & Train Fair, 01492 517004

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- **Rayleigh**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012 or 07498 912091

1 JANUARY

- **East Midlands (Newark)**, J & J Webb, 01522 880383

7 JANUARY

- **Midhurst**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012 or 07498 912091

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- **Kings Langsley**, Excalibur Auctions, 020 3633 0913

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- **Sheffield**, Sheffield Auction Galleries, 0114 281 6161
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8 DECEMBER

- **Taunton**, Greenslade Taylor Hunt, 01823 332525

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